

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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INSIDE



Base Impasse

An impasse over the Futenma air base could bring down a key U.S. ally.

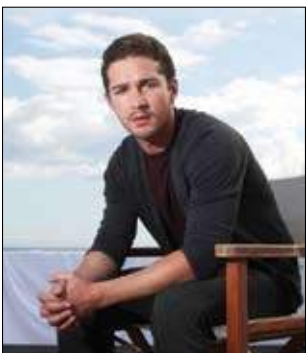
ASIA...Page 11



Overseas Votes

Benigno Aquino III and Manuel Roxas II topped the overseas absentee votes.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



3rd Transformers

Shia LaBeouf says the third "Transformers" brings the heart back to the franchise.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21



The Interior report was done without consultation with the CNMI. They came back and forth but there's no consultation. We're not accorded that opportunity. They never came to us. The locals in the CNMI were not consulted.

—Rose T. Ada-Hocog, CNMI Women's Organization

Opposing petitions now circulating

» Take your pick: For or against Interior recommendations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two separate petitions on immigration are now circulating in the community and online.

One is "supporting" while the other one is "opposing" the U.S. Department of the Interior's report and recommendation to the U.S. Congress on the status of alien workers in the CNMI.

See **PETITIONS** on **Page 4**

'All is set for Sunday's big motorcade'

» Local man'amko will be special speaker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Organizers of this Sunday's motorcade said yesterday that all is set for the big event, during which a local man'amko will serve as the special speaker.

"We are all set. Everything is ready," said United Workers Movement-NMI president

Rabby Syed, who was seen with other organizers putting up two banners for the motorcade on the side of the road in San Jose and Garapan yesterday.

Syed said Francisco Dela Cruz, a local senior citizen who supports recommendations for improved immigration status for long-term guest workers, will be their special speaker.

"For all alien workers, unity is our strength. We will have a unified voice to

See **MOTORCADE** on **Page 4**

TASTE OF THE MARIANAS

An employee of D'Elegance Café prepares food in the restaurant's booth at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan. Tonight's festivities will featuring live song and dance performances, food booths, arts and crafts, and a Spam cook-off. The event will also be held on May 22 and 29.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



2 men charged with defrauding govt of \$8,650. PAGE 3
4th Beach Road Car Rally hits the streets next Saturday. PAGE 5

Local

PREP TIME

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, fourth from right, meets with William S. Reyes Elementary School principal Lynnette Villagomez, third from right, and Jerry and Ligaya Alcantara at her office yesterday to discuss preparations for the National Spelling Bee Competition next month. PSS, for the first time, will send its delegate, Mikhail Alcantara, to compete for the title in Washington, D.C. in June.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



'Boat smart, boat safe' theme highlights Safe Boating Week

The Commonwealth will be celebrating the 2010 Safe Boating Week from May 16 to 22, 2010.

The U. S. Coast Guard and the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Division, in cooperation with the Office of Emergency Management, DPS Fire Search and Rescue Division, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Coastal Resource Management want to remind local boaters to always, "boat smart, boat safe, and wear a life

jacket when you are underway in a boat."

This year's Safe Boating Week forms part of the 2010 North American Safe Boating Campaign, which seeks to increase awareness and enhance the importance of safety for boaters and water sports enthusiasts.

This important campaign was initiated with a proclamation issued by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos on April 29 in honor of 2010 Safe Boating Week.

The volunteer membership of CNMI's U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and DPS Boating Safety invites everyone to participate in the activities and exercises lined up each day of the week at various waterfront locations. These include static displays from DPS Boating Safety and Coast Guard Auxiliary, and a Search and Rescue exercise on May 18 between the U. S. Coast Guard and CNMI emergency response agencies.

The U. S. Coast Guard Aux-

iliary and DPS Boating Safety will be on hand to answer questions and conduct voluntary Vessel Safety Checks according to the following schedule:

■ May 16: Sugar Dock, 8am to 12pm

■ May 19: Fishing Base, 8am to 12pm

■ May 22: Smiling Cove Marina, 8am to 12pm

The Vessel Safety Check entails CG Auxiliary and DPS Boating Safety examination of all required safety equipment for recreational boats and personal watercraft for availability, functionality and general seaworthiness.

For more information on Safe Boating Week and general boating safety, contact DPS Boating Safety Division at (670) 664-9180, the U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan at (670) 236-2969, or visit Coast Guard's boating safety Web site at www.uscg-boating.org. (USCG)

High Court decides on Roberto estate case

On Wednesday, May 12, 2010, in a two-to-one decision the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's order awarding certain real property and bank accounts to Matilde DLG Fejeran because the property was not part of the deceased Joseph R. Roberto's estate.

The estate's executor, Roberto's nephew Joseph L. Roberto, claimed that the assets were part of the estate, and that the trial court failed to follow the mandate and law from *In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph R. Roberto*, 2003 MP 16. (The mandate and law of an opinion is what a Supreme Court opinion orders the lower court to do.)

The Supreme Court, however, reversed the trial court's order with respect to one bank account and rental income from

one parcel of real property because the court did not comply with the Supreme Court's earlier opinion from 2003; it ordered the trial court to make further factual determinations with respect to those assets.

Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justice Pro Tem F. Philip Carbullido, of the Guam Supreme Court, were in the majority, and Justice Pro Tem Robert J. Torres, also of the Guam Supreme Court, partially agreed with the majority's decision, but dissented from the parts of the opinion that discussed the disposition of the assets.

The full opinion is *In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph R. Roberto*, 2010 MP 7, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

Air Force, Navy sets FDM training

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 17, 20 and 21, from 7am to 8pm. The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area-517 on May 18-19 from 1pm to 7pm and at Farallon de Medinilla on May 19 from 7am to 8pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national

defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

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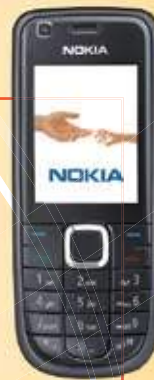
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2 men charged with defrauding govt of \$8,650

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has charged two men for allegedly defrauding the CNMI government of \$8,650 by misrepresenting themselves as qualified to perform environmental site assessments.

Martin Sablan Cabrera,

54, owner of Saipan Pacific Environmental Planning & Consulting, was charged with deceptive business practices, theft by deception, and identity theft. Martin Babauta Castro, 53, was charged with theft by deception.

Assistant attorney general William H. Downer stated in the charging information that in

September 2006 Cabrera made false and misleading written statements in his company's bid for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contract to do a Brownfields assessment.

The Brownfields grant was being administered by the Department of Public Lands.

The prosecutor said that on May 2, 2007, Cabrera and Cas-

tro cashed a check drawn from the Marianas Public Lands Authority's account at the Bank of Guam in the amount of \$8,650.

Downer said the two obtained the money by creating and reinforcing a false impression that SPEPC was qualified

to perform the environmental site assessments specified in the contract with the Department of Public Lands.

Downer said the two men created a false impression that the company intended to perform the environmental site assess-

ments specified in the contract with DPL.

The prosecutor said that, in September 2006, Cabrera used the name and professional information contained in the curriculum vitae of Steve Walker to fraudulently obtain the \$8,650.

Young filmmakers pin dream on movie project

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two young aspiring filmmakers are now seeking sponsors willing to fund their dream of putting to film a project that aims to reflect the very nature of the Commonwealth as an island paradise.

Bernard Rivera, who has been involved in video production for five years, and Robert C. Mojica, a former Theater Club member, have formed the Marianas Film Project, which aims to create quality films that could compete in film festivals in Asia and Oceania.

At present, they are seeking sponsors to realize their first project, called *One Fine Day*. Ready with their scripts and crewmembers, Rivera admitted that funding hinders the fulfillment of their dream project.

The estimated budget for the project is \$16,555 and Rivera is optimistic that they will find the financiers needed to get the project off the ground.

"The whole point of this

project is to have a professional well-made film for the CNMI and become recognized in various countries such as Asia and Oceania. This is also an exciting opportunity for other young filmmakers to learn more about their craft," Rivera said, adding that they encourage high school and college students to become involved in the project.

"If this film is a success... there are two other film projects that we would like to pursue," Rivera said.

They are targeting to complete the film by July in time for its participation in the Oceania Film Festival at the end of the year.

"Film festivals have a deadline to have the films submitted, and we want to start our film festival tour at the end of this year and early next year. If things pan out great at the film festivals in Asia and Oceania, then we would could extend our journey to other foreign countries and submitting it there. Really, this is a great promotional tour, not just for those

involved in the project, and having their name out there, but this is a great promotional ad for Saipan itself," he said.

Auditions set this month

Rivera and Mojica are inviting students and community members to audition for the film's cast and crew on May 22 at 9am through 12:30pm at Marianas High School's Building D-101. Inquiries can also be made by calling 788-2613 and 285-8336 or e-mail bernardrivera07@gmail.com.

Rivera has already produced some short films and has worked in photography and produced various commercials for the Department of Public Health, Docomo Pacific, Blue Bay Pro Co., and Bryan Jones Photography.

Mojica was involved with the Mount Carmel Theater Club for three years from 2003-2006 and also took part in a war documentary that aired on the History Channel. This will be his first movie production since then.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. highlighted yesterday the achievements and important contributions of its linemen in boosting operational improvement and reliability of electric power.

To date, CUC has 15 certified line crewmembers, all graduates of the rigorous Pacific Linemen Training program.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae said yesterday that 15 more will soon be added to their certified linemen pool.

"The training is continuous and is repeated as necessary. We have 15 so far...and another 15 to go," Malae said.

In a letter last week to As-

sistant Secretary for the Interior Tony Babauta, CUC executive director Tony Muña thanked the Office of Insular Affairs for the grant that continues to fund the Pacific Linemen Training, which is credited with reducing the number and duration of power disruptions on Saipan.

Malae said they have received word that additional two-week time slots have been added to the two-year schedule for CUC.

Malae said of the 25 slots, nine are being made available to CUC. The other slots are for Guam, Palau and Chuuk linemen.

"There are few opportunities for training the line crews. In fact, Pacific Linemen Training is the only program of its kind for the CNMI. Linemen are trained in safety and the best practices of line work.

Because these workers tend to be young, fit and energetic, it is important to have discipline drilled into them early and often," Malae said.

Associated with the training is the benefit of improved reliability of electric power to customers because the line crews are able to perform better on the job, he said.

He noted that the frequency and duration of outages have decreased dramatically from the first four months of 2010.

Earlier this year, Babauta visited CUC's facilities in Lower Base and he committed to supporting the apprenticeship program, which includes Pacific Linemen Training; safe and adequate equipment for power line work, and 24/7 running water within two years for Saipan.

Pohnpeians in NMI back changes to their constitution

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Pohnpeians residing in the CNMI have voted in support of all proposed changes to their Constitution, based on the result of the special election held last Tuesday at Garapan Central Park.

There were 10 proposed amendments to the Pohnpei State Constitution, all of which were approved by voters.

Only 7 percent of the registered 360 voters cast their ballots last Tuesday, the lowest turnout recorded in any election on the island.

Among the proposals that received overwhelming support was the provision that would set the compensation of judges and justices. This got 39 "yes" votes compared to just one "no" vote. The existing constitutional provision states that the appointing authority can change anytime the compensation of judges and justices, who all serve unlimited terms.

Another important proposal on the ballot was to place the nominations for governor and lieutenant governor on a single ticket, which received 40 votes. The proposal was intended to prevent the constant conflict that



MONETH G. DEPOSA

A voter is assisted by election board member Arnold Route of Pohnpei during the Pohnpei election held May 11, 2010, at Garapan Central Park while the election commission's spokesperson Kohne Ramon looks on. Ten amendments to the Pohnpei Constitution were on this year's ballots.

arises between the top elected officials when they come from different political parties.

Pohnpeians interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* said that based on their experience, the personal differences of top elected leaders have adversely affected how their government was operated in previous administrations.

A referendum that would allow Pohnpeians residing outside of the island to seek the government's legal assistance when necessary also got the support of voters, with 31 votes. A proposal to establish a Pohnpei Au-

dit Office to be run by an auditor with six-year term also got the support of 35 voters.

This year's low turnout was attributed to the lack of interest among the citizens themselves and the lack of information about the activity.


"To many of our people, issues regarding the Constitution are not personal to them. Also, 90 percent of our voters are unaware of what are the issues on the ballot and their significance to their lives," said Kohne Ramon, Pohnpei election board commission member.



MOTHER'S DAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Almost 40 mothers were greeted and prayed for during the celebration of Mother's Day at the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch). They were encouraged not only to be the best wives to their husbands and the best mother to their children, but especially to be mothers that will give honor and glory to God. The celebration was followed by a mini-concert by some volunteer mothers, who displayed their talents by dancing, singing and modeling.



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Fitial vetoes Saipan local bill reprogramming \$17,000

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed a Saipan local bill reprogramming a total of \$17,000 in lapsed/unobligated funds from two local laws, to go toward four projects and activities.

Fitial cited several reasons for disapproving House Local Bill 17-10, D4, including the measure's failure to require any accountability in the form of a reporting requirement.

The governor, in his May 3 veto message to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chairman Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan)

and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), said the local bill failed to state the specific purposes of the appropriations.

For example, the delegation's \$73,000 appropriation simply states that it "shall be for SNILD's personnel and operations."

"It fails to indicate how the personnel expenses will be spent; whether it is to hire additional personnel, give raises to current personnel, or supplement for any shortfall. It also fails to indicate how the operations expenses will be spent or how it will be divided

between 'personnel' and 'operations,'" Fitial said.

HLB 17-10, D4, introduced by Reps.

Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan), seeks to appropriate lapsed/unobligated funds from Saipan Local Laws 14-11 and 15-12.

The local bill identified three separate \$30,000 appropriations in the two local laws, portions of such amount to be reprogrammed for four projects and activities.

These proposed re-appropriations include \$3,000 for the NMI Bar As-



Fitial

Public hearing on Schrack's appointment as Finance chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation will hold a May 19 public hearing on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nomination of Robert "Bob" Schrack as secretary of the Department of Finance.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), committee chairman, said the public hearing will be on Wednesday at 9:30am in the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

Cruz's committee asked representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Governor, and Finance, as well as private citizens, to provide comments or testify during the public hearing.

"Members of the general public are encouraged to submit written testimony before the public hearing. Oral testimony will be received during the public hearing," Cruz said.

Cruz, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said his committee will also hold public hearings on Fitial's nomi-

nation of Jose B. Aldan and Jesus Elameto as members of the Civil Service Commission.

The Senate EAGI Committee of the 17th Legislature has so far recommended full Senate confirmation for all the governor's nominations, including that of Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, Personnel Management Director Isidro Seman, and Indigenous Affairs resident executive director Ignacio Demapan. The Senate confirmed all the nominees.

PETITIONS

From Page 1

The CNMI Women's Organization, a non-profit organization, started at 3am yesterday an online petition "vehemently opposing" the Interior report.

The online petition can be accessed at www.petitiononline.com/4NMI/petition.html.

Rose T. Ada-Hocog, secretary and public relations officer of the CNMI Women's Organization, said the group is also circulating a signature drive in villages.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will hand deliver the signatures collected when he testifies at a May 18 congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI, said Ada-Hocog.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said yesterday that the Indigenous Affairs Office and the office of House Vice Speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) have begun village meetings on the Interior report and recommendations, which the Fitial administration is strongly opposed.

The CNMI Senate and House of Representatives also adopted a joint resolution opposing the report.

Nonresident workers and their supporters, meanwhile, are also circulating in the community a petition "strongly supporting" Interior's report.

They have also started a personal letter campaign addressed to the U.S. Congress asking them to support Interior's recommendation giving long-term status to aliens who have legally resided in the CNMI for at least five years.

These include conferring outright U.S. citizenship on aliens by an act of Congress, granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship, or granting them a status similar to that of Freely Associated States citizens.

The alien worker groups are led by

the United Workers Movement-NMI, Dekada, the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or MAHAL, and others who joined the historic unity march two years ago.

'We're not consulted'

Ada-Hocog of the CNMI Women's Organization said Interior did not consult the "natives" of the CNMI—Chamorros and Carolinians—in the preparation and submission of the report and recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law requires Interior to consult with the CNMI governor and the Homeland Security secretary on any recommendation on the immigration status of alien workers in the CNMI.

"The Interior report was done without consultation with the CNMI. They came back and forth but there's no consultation. We're not accorded that opportunity. They never came to us. The locals in the CNMI were not consulted," Ada-Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She said the group chose to have an online petition "to reach out to those CNMI residents who are in the states and other locations."

"We, the natives of the Northern Mariana Islands, are vehemently opposing the Secretary of Interior's Report as prepared pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229 regarding the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which was submitted to the U.S. Congress in April 2010. This report was prepared without any efforts to consult us or our government," reads the online petition, addressed to the U.S. Congress.

Ada-Hocog said the CNMI Women's Organization will be expounding on its reason for posting and circulating petitions opposing the report.

As of 7pm yesterday, the online petition had 127 signatures.

The group targets as many signatures as possible.

The CNMI Women's Organization will also be actively gathering signa-

tures on Saipan, Tinian and Rota led by its officials.

Ada-Hocog is leading the campaign on Saipan, while CNMI Women's Organization president Florine Hofschneider will lead the signature drive on Tinian, and group vice president Laura Manglona will lead the signature drive on Rota.

'Support the Interior report'

Alien worker groups have been circulating petitions from the CNMI business community and the CNMI faith-based community addressed to the U.S. Congress, as well as a letter writing campaign also addressed to Congress.

"As business owners, managers and investors, we most strongly support and endorse a pathway to citizenship for legal alien workers who have lived in the CNMI for a minimum period of five years," the petition partly reads.

The petitions are also addressed to U.S. President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.

Worker groups also encourage community members to write personal letters to members of the U.S. Congress, expressing their support to the Interior report.

"I respectfully appeal to you to at quickly and favorably on Secretary Salazar's recommendations that Congress should grant long-term status to alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for at least five years. I support long-term status that would include a pathway to U.S. citizenship," a sample letter partly reads.

Lito Marquez, one of the worker group volunteers, said many volunteers will also visit villages this weekend to gather signatures in support of the Interior report and recommendations.

Worker groups and their supporters will also be holding a motorcade on Sunday at 2pm from Kilili Beach in Susupe to the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Copies of the petitions will also be circulated at the motorcade and assembly.

sociation to support the Team CNMI in the National High School Mock Trial Championships in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from May 3 to 10, 2010; \$10,000 for the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission to fund the Chamorro Language Conference on Rota from April 28 to 30, 2010; \$2,000 for the repair of a basketball court in Precinct IV; and \$2,000 for Saipan Southern High School's prep rally competition on Saipan.

The governor said HLB 17-10, D4 is also in violation of 1 CMC 7302 as these funds were specifically appropriated for capital improvement projects.

"The measure appropriates funds to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's personnel and operational expenses, which clearly is not a capital improvement

project," Fitial said.

In his two-page veto message, the governor said the Precinct III and IV projects for which the funds were originally appropriated are not complete. He also said the projects for which SLL 14-11 and 15-12 appropriated funds to are ongoing and incomplete.

"The balance on these accounts are insufficient to complete the pending projects and will be further crippled if HLB 17-10, D4 is approved," Fitial said.

Commonwealth Drive, one of the designated road paving projects, requires more than \$300,000 for the architectural and engineering design alone, which the specific business unit, BU 3392, has insufficient funds to support, the governor added.

Alien worker sues after being denied transfer for not having umbrella permit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An alien worker has sued the Department of Labor for denying his request to transfer to another employer because of his failure to obtain an umbrella permit.

Nicanor F. Del Pilar filed the lawsuit pro se or without a lawyer. The Federal Ombudsman's Office, however, assisted him in filing the petition.

Del Pilar asked the Superior Court to review Labor's decision and reverse the order denying him the chance to transfer.

Del Pilar stated in the petition that he registered with Labor on Nov. 24, 2009, for transfer. The following day, Team Advance Group Inc. filed an employer intent form with Labor, signifying its intent to hire him.

Labor issued a notice of hearing and objection to the proposed employment by noting among other things, that Del Pilar did not obtain an umbrella permit.

After the Dec. 23, 2009 hearing, Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein denied his transfer.

Del Pilar asked for reconsideration, but again was denied. He appealed to the Labor Secretary.

On March 19, 2010, acting Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat affirmed the administrative order that denied his request for reconsideration.

In her order, Kaipat said that, although Del Pilar was eligible for an umbrella permit, the hearing officer found that he never appeared to sign for and pick up the permit prior to the deadline on Nov. 27, 2009.

"It may be that [Del Pilar] followed the advice of some source that an umbrella permit was not necessary or useful. However, the fact remains that appellant has no umbrella permit and the department will not issue any umbrella permit after the deadline," Kaipat said.

She said Del Pilar has no umbrella permit that allows him to work in the CNMI.

Kaipat said if Del Pilar fails to report to Labor within 30 days for assistance with repatriation, she will refer the matter to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation proceedings.

MOTORCADE

From Page 1

bring our plight to the U.S. Congress' attention. So I am calling them for their full participation to make a unified voice," he said.

Syed also urged participants to be respectful, considering that there's a lot of people with opposing views.

"We should respect them. For many years we are living here together," he said.

Participants are encouraged to wear white—a symbol of peace and hope.

Syed said they had already contacted CNN News, which responded that they are now evaluating the event and they will get back to the organizers as soon as possible.

Organizers believe the international media would be interested in the event since the immigration issue is currently a hot topic in the U.S. mainland.

GMA 7, one of the biggest TV stations in the Philippines, will cover the event through its contributor on Saipan.

Former lawmaker Tina Sablan said

she will be at the motorcade "in spirit" as she will be leaving today, Saturday, for Papua New Guinea for an election observation mission.

"I'm preparing a statement. Somebody will be reading it at the event," Sablan said.

She said the alien workers group is planning a number of activities such as petitions, economic forum, and essay contest for elementary, junior and high school students.

"There are definitely plans in the works for the next few months and I will be involved there too," Sablan said.

Organizers believe that thousands of workers will participate in the motorcade, described by human rights advocate Wendy Doromal as the "last leg of [the alien workers'] journey for justice and reform."

The motorcade will start at 2pm from Kilili Beach to the American Memorial Park.

Organizers said the purpose of the "Unity Movement Motorcade and Assembly" is to show support for the Interior's recommendations and to urge Congress to act quickly on such recommendations.

4th Beach Road Car Rally hits the streets next Saturday

Beach Road Magazine is revving up for its fourth and final Car Rally on May 22. This is the only event of its kind where you get to take a road trip around Saipan with your friends and family for a chance to win cash and other exciting prizes.

"Last year we had 16 entries and we're hoping for a larger turn-out this year," said rally master and *Beach Road Magazine* account manager, Susan Marchitti. "The first place team will take home \$200, and the second and third place teams will win \$150 and \$100 respectively. Each car will get one free t-shirt (more available for \$5 each), and prizes will be awarded to every team that finishes the course. It's an experience you want to try at least once."

This event is open to drivers 16 years and older, and the entry is only \$15 per car. Each team should have one driver and at least one or more navigators.

The course is set up on public roads, and each team works

together to find their way to the end with the instructions that may contain smiley faces, diagrams and other odd gimmicks to add to the fun.

"We recommend you bring your kids, your friends, your co-workers and a tourist or two to navigate your way through to the finish. There will be checkpoints where you can stop and take a break, and you may need to answer some easy questions along the way or find a scavenger hunt item for points at the end," Marchitti said.

Entry forms can be found in the May issue of *Beach Road Magazine* or at the Transpac Business Center in Gualo Rai (near Subway restaurant). Payment is due with entry form. Each team will receive a copy of the rules which explains the event and what kinds of things to expect along the way.

This year's event is sponsored by the Department of Public Safety, DPH, EMS, PHI Pharmacy, Foremost, Budget Car Rental, Coca-Co-

la and Subway. Prize donors include: Saipan Grand Hotel, Topnotch, T&J Get Covered,

Elite Printing, 360 Restaurant, Pacific Islands Club, Scoops, Micronesian Brokers

Inc., Steam Car Wash, Saipan World Resort and Megazone. For more information, call the

Beach Road Magazine office at 235-7645 or the rally master at 483-3145. (PR)

NMC, EPA strengthen ties to boost quality of instruction at the college

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are linking up to enhance academic development and improve the quality of services available to island students.

In a memorandum of understanding signed Thursday, the two agencies agreed to increase cooperation between them and promote equal opportunity in postsecondary education.

NMC was represented by interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera while EPA administrator Lisa P. Jackson represented the federal agency at the signing ceremony on campus.

The college is home to nearly a thousand students every semester and offers various programs and services besides academic courses.

The memorandum encourages the participation of Pacific islands institutions in EPA programs and also targets to help fill demands for highly trained and diverse professionals in science and technology.

"We are extremely glad to be partnering with the EPA to bring programs that will help

local businesses take advantage of training activities and other kinds of opportunities," said Cabrera. "We will continue to work with them and other federal and local agencies to advance the development and professional capacity of our workforce."

The parties involved in the MOU plan to establish a partnership committee consisting of representatives from each organization that would manage the implementation of the MOU.

Through the agreement and

increased collaborative efforts between both agencies, NMC and EPA will find mutually beneficial opportunities for student internships, co-op programs, career fairs, EPA staff participation in conferences and lectures, and enhanced access by NMC faculty and students to EPA research facilities and instrumentation.

This also provides for sharing of data that could be of interest to the college, EPA and other Pacific island institutions.

EPA has designated Piyachat Terrell to help administer the MOU along with NMC Business Department chair Dr. John Griffin.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera signs a Memorandum of Understanding that would enhance cooperation between the Northern Marianas College and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Also in the photo are EPA representatives John McCarroll, far left, Jeanette Brown, second left, and Piyachat Terrell, far right.

NMC Summer 2010 registration begins next week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2010 semester will begin next week on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, and will continue to Friday, May 21, 2010.

New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the Summer 2010 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2010 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses), Extended Summer Session (twelve-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from

the NMC Web site.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates below:

Summer 2010 Important Dates

May 19-21: Registration for Summer 2010 Semester, 9am to 6pm.

May 19-June 2: Registration for Summer Session II, 9am to 6pm.

May 26: First Day of Instruction

May 31: CNMI Legal Holiday (Memorial Day)

July 6: First Day of Instruction for Summer Session II

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



'ARIKEN' ON MANAGAHA

TV Tokyo's popular variety show "Ariken" films diving at Managaha Island on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on May 8, 2010. The show will bring an estimated \$4-million in media exposure to this island resort destination in its primary tourism market of Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DHS Awards \$3,194,877 to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded \$3,194,877 through the Transit Security Grant Program to Guam yesterday, according to Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

The TSGP is designed to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism, major disaster, and other emergencies.

The funding received was appropriated through the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-83). Four separate Homeland Security programs—the Port Security Grant Program, the Buffer Zone Protection Program, the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, and the Driver's License Security Grant Program—were awarded funding.

■ Port Security Grant Program: Guam received \$2,257,500 for the Port Security Grant Program. The PSGP provides funding to port areas for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. This funding helps ports enhance their risk management capabilities, maritime domain awareness, training and exer-

cises, efforts supporting implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC), and capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices and other non-conventional weapons.

■ Buffer Zone Protection Program: Guam received \$200,000 for the Buffer Zone Protection Program. The BZPP provides grants to build security and risk management capabilities at the state and local level in order to secure pre-designated Level I and II critical infrastructure sites, including chemical facilities, financial institutions, nuclear and electric power plants, dams, stadiums, and other high-risk/high-consequence facilities.

■ Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program: The Department of Homeland Security awarded Guam \$85,500 for the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program. The IECGP provides governance, planning, training and exercise funding to states, territories, and local and tribal governments to carry out initiatives to improve interoperable emergency communications, including commu-

nications in collective response to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

■ Driver's License Security Grant Program: Guam received \$651,877 for the Driver's License Security Grant Program (DLSGP). The DLSGP provides funding to prevent terrorism by reducing fraud and improving the reliability and accuracy of personal identification documents issued by States and territories. The DLSGP is intended to address a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission to improve the integrity and security of State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

"The funding received from DHS will assist the Government of Guam in improving maritime security on our island," Bordallo said. "The \$2.2 million in funding for the Port of Guam in particular will greatly assist security at a location critical to our island's economy. This financial assistance builds on grants in previous years which have greatly benefited the overall modernization improvements that are needed at our port. I look forward to these programs being fully implemented on Guam." (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 115Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Threatening Americans' citizenship violates our civil liberties

The "Terrorist Expatriation Act" was introduced last week by two U.S. senators from New England, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Scott Brown of Massachusetts.

There's historic symmetry to their action.

Not because New England was the cradle of our fledgling republic, a place of conspicuous bravery in the fight for liberty and against tyranny. Rather, it's because the bill evokes a dark period, long predating the American Revolution, when citizens from Lieberman's and Brown's home states were cast out and placed on trial for the crime of witchcraft.

The senators' bill emerged in the immediate aftermath of the May 1 failed attempt to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, a crime for which Faisal Shahzad, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Pakistan, was arrested. Lieberman and Brown have used it as a backdrop to urge a greatly expanded power to strip Americans of citizenship, natural-born and naturalized citizens alike.

Lieberman urged all to put the "proposal in historical context."

He points to a World War II-era law on expatriation that he says was intended to apply to "a U.S. citizen who voluntarily joined the German or Japanese armies to fight against our troops in Europe or the Pacific." The new legislation, Lieberman said, simply "updates the 1940 law to account for the enemy we are fighting today."

The problem with his analogy is that the bill wouldn't apply only to Americans who renounce their citizenship by swearing allegiance to a terrorist organization or who voluntarily serve in the armed forces of an enemy engaged in hostilities against the United States.

Americans always have been free to relinquish and renounce their citizenship in this fashion.

Lieberman and Brown, though, would permit Americans to be expatriated for engaging in something as vague as providing "material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization."

What's a "foreign terrorist organization" under the law? Any organization so designated by the U.S. secretary of state.

And unlawful "material support or resources" can be something as benign as publishing information considered to be "expert advice."

Congressional hysteria and an exaggerated response to the threat of communism in the 1950s is a more apt analogy. That's when loyalty oaths were made a condition of employment and belonging to a political party could subject a person to criminal punishment.

Patriotic Americans were destroyed in the process.

The Lieberman-Brown bill is a determined first step in that direction, making it possible for the fear of terrorism to be exploited.

In a leading case on forced loss of citizenship, the U.S. Supreme Court in 1958 considered the case of Albert Trop, a U.S. Army private court-martialed for war-time desertion. The U.S. secretary of state argued that Trop had forfeited his citizenship as a result.

A majority of the U.S. Supreme Court disagreed.

"Citizenship is not a license that expires upon misbehavior," and "is not a weapon that the government may use to express its displeasure at a citizen's conduct," the court ruled. Other forms of punishment are "available to deal with derelictions of duty."

Expulsion, however, is no foreign concept to our political system. We reserve the right vote out politicians who try to exploit our fears and threaten our freedoms.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Boycott will force Arizonans to face the consequences of action

By ILENE DURST

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SAN DIEGO—Call it walking without documents, shopping while brown, or driving while listening to ranchera music: Arizona police soon can arrest you based upon a “reasonable suspicion” about your immigration status.

The good citizens of Arizona also will be able to sue their local police departments if they fear the officers are not performing this public service.

And if, like four-term Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva, you dare speak out against this legislation, you will be compelled to close your office doors because of credible death threats. So much for the First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth amendments in Arizona! Apart from the international humiliation and scorn Arizona will suffer and the lawsuits against which it will have to defend, a nationally orchestrated boycott should finally bring home to Arizona that one illegal turn does not deserve another.

Boycotts have a long, laudable history in this country. The United States first declared its independence from England by boycotting English goods before the American Revolution.

The long journey to true equality for blacks was paved in part

with the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott. The rights of farm workers to union representation and protection from exploitation germinated from boycotts of lettuce and grapes.

One might even say boycotts are as American as apple pie, or as baseball, with 30 percent of its players potentially subject to “reasonable suspicion” if they participate in next year’s spring training or the 2011 All-Star Game in Phoenix.

Not only may baseball abandon the state. Cities as diverse as Milwaukee, San Francisco, Carson City, Nev., and the District of Columbia have approved, or are seriously contemplating, a boycott.

AILA, the national organization of attorneys specializing in immigration law, has voted to move its fall conference out of Arizona—and for the cynical among you, let’s be clear that immigration attorneys in private practice do not earn their living representing the persons Arizona fears most, but the educated, highly skilled foreign workers sponsored by thriving corporations.

Last but not least, Arthur Frommer, the great travel guru, is considering a boycott, albeit for different reasons—he has questioned why Arizona’s political protesters feel the need to carry rifles when expressing their opinions.

A boycott may also have the felicitous effect of pushing our national leaders to develop comprehensive immigration reform, much

like the bipartisan legislation proposed in 2005 by Arizona’s own Sen. John McCain, a Republican, and Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass.

McCain has now repudiated that effort, perhaps due to his struggle for re-election. In any event, Arizona’s new legislation will not solve at any level what admittedly is a pressing social, economic and political problem, any more than tea parties will refill the state’s coffers when convention, travel and tourism revenues drop, Mexican truckers opt for other border crossings, and the average Mexican, Texan or Californian chooses not to cross the border for a day of retail indulgence.

The state legislators and governor would not have enacted this travesty if they were not convinced this was the will of the Arizona people.

Yet it is clear the bill cannot be implemented without unlawful racial profiling, regardless of the amendment hastily enacted days after the governor signed the bill, stating that “race, color and national origin” may not form the basis for the reasonable suspicion.

If Arizona’s citizens are so convinced that they know an illegal when they see one and that all such persons are responsible for all their social and economic ills, let’s not cross their borders and see how their public experiment evolves.

Ilene Durst is a professor of law at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Readers may e-mail her at ilened@tjls.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The greatest ignorance

When one states a claim to something, it is expected that the premise of the situation is clear, and from its starting point all the evidents lead to such clarity of point, and from which the conclusion is derived at without confusion and sustained by specificity. We call this “argument.” This is not the case in Ambrose Bennett’s point of view. To declare something as “unconstitutional” without the simple logic that flows to make the point is nothing more than a disease called “diarrhea of the mouth.”

No one is denied property ownership in the CNMI. Property ownership confers upon the person exclusive property interest to the property in question. Hence, property interest gives tangible and exclusive use of property according to the law of the jurisdiction in which the property resides. Jurisdictions in the contiguous United States have laws that discriminate as to land ownerships or entitlement to government benefits, but those are perfectly constitutional under the laws. In Alaska, for example, the annual royalties from oil revenues of the State of Alaska received by bona fide Alaskans who were born in Alaska is perfectly legal and constitutional. Does this mean that Mr. Ambrose Bennett has a stake in the oil revenue royalties that only benefit bona fide Alaskan citizens? In Guam, the “land for the landless” law only confers eligibility to landless Guam residents who were born in Guam. Again, this is perfectly legal and constitutional. We can draw many more examples such as denial of employment to convicted felons for teaching positions in public schools. Public goods such as employment and other public entitlement programs that by their nature are discriminatory, but are perfectly legal or constitutional.

Unless we know exactly where and what Mr. Bennett’s premise is, we could not see a clear argument, hence the only common sense that that makes is its “non-sense” to the issue that begs for stability and validity. The indigenous people of the CNMI are not ignorant about their own land matters. Hence, the greatest ignorance by a person who opposes the stay of Article XII of the CNMI Constitution is to reject something he knows nothing about.

Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Not feasible

In response to Paul Beebe’s recent letter to the editor that we (CNMI Indigenous population) will not have to worry about the alien workers overrunning the locals because they will relocate to the U.S. mainland, why don’t the Interior Department’s Tony Babauta’s recommendation to the U.S. Congress be, that if all alien workers who qualify for the five-year stay in the CNMI move to the mainland United States, they can be granted U.S. citizenship. That way, we in the CNMI can be assured that we will not be managed by foreign workers. Otherwise, Mr. Beebe’s thinking on the subject is not feasible.

Vicente M. Sablan

Kagman III, Saipan

Never forget John Brown

By KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY

THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

This week marks John Brown’s 210th birthday. After enduring a month of states celebrating the Confederacy, let’s hear it for abolitionist John Brown.

Brown was born on May 9, 1800. When he took over Harpers Ferry on Oct. 16, 1859, he was not only drawing attention to the crime of slavery, he was also trying to provide the spark for a slave rebellion.

He declared his “sympathy with the oppressed and wronged, that are good as you and as precious in the sight of God.” This was a direct challenge to slaveholders everywhere and to white supremacy.

And even after he was tried and convicted of treason against the state of Virginia, even as he awaited the gallows, he did not relent.

“You may dispose of me easily, but this question is still to be settled—the Negro question—the end of that is not yet,” he said. Prophetically, he added: “I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood.”

Brown’s willingness to give his life for equality and freedom puts the lie to all the efforts to recast the Civil War as the “War of Northern Aggression” and to sugarcoat the honoring of the Confederacy with such slogans as “Heritage, Not Hate.” We blacks know in our bones that Confederate History Month is nothing more than the glorification of white supremacy. We shouldn’t stand for it, and nor should any American who believes in the words of the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal.” The neo-Confederate motto is “Never forget.” We should all adopt it.

Let’s never forget John Brown. Let’s never forget the other abolitionists, black and white, who campaigned against slavery. Let’s make sure that their stories are told in our national parks and on the

markers and monuments and at the battle sites that serve as tourist attractions for Civil War buffs.

I recently visited Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Appomattox and other Civil War sites. I was the only black person in sight, with the exception of a few park workers. At Appomattox, I saw visitors placing Confederate flags on tombstones.

Doubtless, the efforts to rehabilitate the Southern cause seem to come at moments of racial and social stress by folk who feel alienated and angry about a “black” president or health care reform or “big government,” though their anti-government concerns seem to melt away when it comes to spending tax dollars to maintain the ever-growing list of parks, monuments and battle sites.

Still, the glorification of the Confederacy is mostly about white resistance to black advances, white resentment at the erosion of white privilege. It’s been that way since the 1880s and 1890s.

So, no, we should never forget.

We should not forget that even during enslavement and the war people of African descent fought back. There were the five black men among Brown’s raiding party: Lewis Leary, Dangerfield Newby, Shields Green, Osborne Perry Anderson and John Anthony Copeland Jr., along with the 16 white men who followed Brown to Harpers Ferry.

The fight to protect white privilege goes on. We have to fight back by being honest about the history of our republic. And we have to tell all our stories.

Remember John Brown.

Kevin Alexander Gray is the author of the recently published books “Waiting for Lightning to Strike: The Fundamentals of Black Politics” and “The Decline of Black Politics: From Malcolm X to Barack Obama.” He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

We need to open college doors for all students

By GLENN HUTCHINSON

PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

High school graduation is coming up, but that shouldn’t be a dead end for children of immigrants, even if their parents came here illegally.

We should not punish the kids for the actions of their parents. We should not make them fear deportation. Instead, we should help them contribute to this country—which is their country, too.

Today, thousands upon thousands of graduating high school students who’ve spent almost their whole lives here can’t go to college simply because their parents did not jump through the proper hoops. This is their home, the only home they’ve ever known. Yet many states deny them the right to attend college.

Take North Carolina, the state where I live, for example. It banned undocumented students from its community college system two years ago. Even though these children graduated from high school and are part of their communities, state leaders decided these young people should not be able to continue their education because this wastes resources on noncitizens.

After a public outcry over the decision, the State Community College Board commissioned a study at a cost to taxpayers of \$75,000. A consulting firm concluded that there was no negative economic effect from undocumented students enrolling at community colleges, since such students even pay out-of-state tuition.

So last month, the board voted 13-1 to reverse its decision.

But it’s not over yet. A Rules Review Commission must approve the change, and the state Legislature may intervene.

Ten states welcome undocumented students and charge in-state tuition: California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Washington.

But real change won’t happen until Congress decides to pass the DREAM Act, a bill proposed by Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., and Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif. This legislation would be a pathway for citizenship if students continue with their education or choose military service.

Our history is full of people all around the world who came here to make a better life and contribute their talents to making America great. We should not deprive so many of those who are graduating from high school this summer from fulfilling their potential.






Let’s be a nation not for deportation, but for education.

Glenn Hutchinson teaches writing at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine. Readers may write to the author at: Progressive Media Project, 409 East Main Street, Madison, Wis. 53703; e-mail: pmproj@progressive.org; Web site: www.progressive.org. For information on PMP’s funding, please visit http://www.progressive.org/pmpabout.html#anchorsupport.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲90 ▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

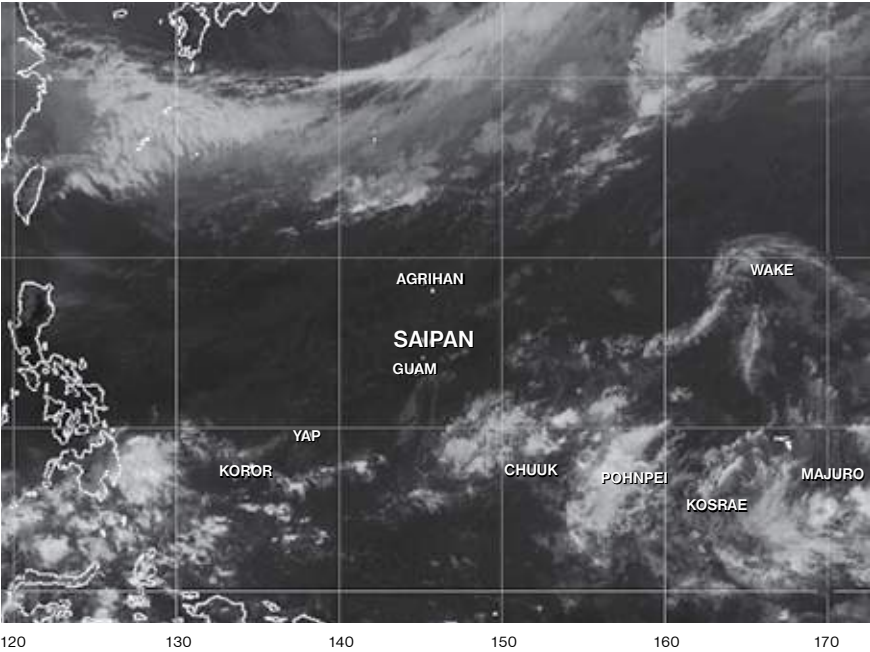
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲66 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲84 ▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼76
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84 ▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74 ▼55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲96 ▼84
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲76 ▼60
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼58
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼42
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼55
Rome	Rain	▲63 ▼52
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲76 ▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼52
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼57
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
7:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
2:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
9:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough of low pressure stretches from near 2N156E to 10N158E. Scattered showers covered much of Pohnpei state within 120 miles east and west of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is generating two areas of scattered showers across Micronesia. The first area is found over Chuuk state between 6N and 10N from 146E to 153E. The second area is just east of Kosrae and covers portions of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 6N from 165E to 180. A stationary front enters the discussion area near 25N154E and Stretches to 22N140E and exits the discussion area near 23N130E. Low-level clouds and with patchy showers and a few thunderstorms can be found along and up to 400 miles north of the boundary.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:25 AM	7:52 PM
Sunday	7:23 AM	8:52 PM
Monday	8:23 AM	9:49 PM
Tuesday	9:25 AM	10:42 PM
Wednesday	10:26 AM	11:31 PM

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM						GUAM-ROTA (ROP)					
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5			C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily		
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily			C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily			DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily		
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6			CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS		
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM		
						OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau			C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau		
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM			C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM						via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services		
CATHOLIC		
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm		
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm		
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm		
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am		
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm		
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm		
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm		
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm		
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm		
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am		
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm		
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism		
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am		
PROTESTANT		
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm		
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm		
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm		
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm		
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions		
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm		
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)		
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158		
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal		
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)		
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday		
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm		
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)		
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm		
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm		
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620		
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm		
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)		
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm		
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm		
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm		
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday 9am Sunday school 10am Regular worship 6pm worship Wednesday 7pm worship Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.		
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism		
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan		
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S		

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 15, 2000

Senate OKs tougher laws on domestic violence
A comprehensive measure aimed at curbing growing incidents of domestic violence and spousal abuse on the island has passed the Senate in a first significant response to clamor by advocates for tougher laws against perpetrators. SB 12-34, or the Domestic and Family Prevention Act, now heads to the House of Representatives for voting. The legislation is similar to an earlier proposal introduced in the 11th Legislature by former House Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo that failed to go through. Now offered by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, chair of the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, this bill seeks to prohibit acts of domestic and family violence as well as to provide remedies, penalties, and courses of treatments to both victims and perpetrators.

600 boxes of noodles confiscated
The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is warning local wholesalers against the importation of undocumented food products following a food and mouth disease alert it has issued two months ago in light of the recent outbreak in South Korea and Japan. The confiscation of some 600 boxes of instant beef noodles from Korea last May 10 has prompted DLNR to issue another alert, especially on imports containing beef by products. According to DLNR Spokesperson Marian Concepcion-Teregeyo, the local wholesaler failed to present to the Division of Quarantine proper documents that the beef inside the noodles is safe for consumption.

May 15, 2001

EPA: PCB level below risk standard
The United States Environmental Protection Agency has reiterated that PCB samples taken from over 50 sites in Tanapag Village have tested to be below the risk-based soil cleanup level. US-EPA Superfund Division Deputy Director Michael Feeley told Rep. Dino Jones in a letter that additional sampling for PCB recently conducted by on-site representatives were below the reportable limit of 0.278 ppm. He said that due to safety concerns raised by local agencies and Tanapag residents, areas were re-excavated and re-sampled but results of the laboratory tests are similar with initial analysis that all excavated areas of the village are below 1-ppm.

Garment industry kicks in 25% of gov't tax earnings
Although severely attacked, the Saipan garment manufacturing industry has positioned itself to be a significant contributor of direct annual revenues for the government, or nearly 25 percent of all tax earnings. According to the Department of Finance, the apparel manufacturing sector has generated close to \$40 million annually in direct revenue. With the dramatic downturn in the highly-volatile tourism sector, the industry currently represents the main source of income and employment in the CNMI. Similarly, an economic study funded by the US Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs revealed that at an average of \$1,800 income taxes per person, the apparel manufacturing industry, which currently employs about 15,000 foreign workers, contributes \$27 million in income taxes alone.

May 15, 2002

Debacle poisons BoS' ties with other banks
Bank of Saipan's sudden closure over two weeks ago has significantly affected the institution's relationships with other banks, particularly that of the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, which provides vital services to BoS. Court-appointed BoS Receiver Randall T. Fennell disclosed in a court-submitted report that BoS keeps an FRB account that is necessary for the resumption of the embattled bank's business activity. He explained that the success of plans to reopen the BoS highly depends on healthy ties with the FRB. Fennell, however, noted that the San Francisco-based bank is willing to reinstate services to the bank subject to certain conditions.

\$1.81-M allocate for Saipan projects
Some \$1.81 million that would go toward several projects on Saipan are now available after Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law three local appropriation bills and one reappropriation measure. The primary beneficiaries of the new appropriation measures are the Street Naming Commission, the Northern Islands municipal government, the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Gualo Rai sewer distribution lines. As provided under House Local Bill 13-11, a section of Saipan Local Law 12-21 is amended to reallocate \$147,700 for the Gualo Rai sewer distribution lines.

Business

Swipe this card; shopping could be cheaper

WASHINGTON (AP)—Striking at a lucrative bank business, the Senate on Thursday voted to force credit card companies to reduce fees for debit card transactions and permit merchants to offer customer discounts based on their payment method.

The 64-33 vote inserted the fee requirement in a package of new financial rules the Senate is considering to ward off a repeat of the financial crisis.

The vote was a major defeat for banks, which lobbied hard against it. But the measure attracted heavy bipartisan support and surpassed a 60-vote threshold for passage. Seventeen Republicans voted for the amendment; 10 Democrats voted against it.

The measure from Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., would force credit card companies to charge businesses less for debit card transactions than for credit card payments.

Under current practice, a business that accepts major credit cards signs agreements with the card companies to pay a percentage of each transaction, usually about 2 percent to 3 percent. But credit card charges cost more to process than swipes with a debit card.

The measure still needs to survive negotiations with the House, which has already

passed its version of regulations on Wall Street. The House bill does not contain the debit card provision.

The change could represent the most direct and tangible consumer benefit of the regulatory overhaul and would amount to a triumph for Durbin, who failed to get a similar proposal attached to an overhaul of credit card regulations last year.

“Left alone, this is going to get worse for small businesses that face higher fees, for consumers who face higher prices, and for everyone but banks and credit card networks,” Durbin said moments before the vote.

The Electronic Payments Coalition, an industry group whose members include Visa, MasterCard and American Express, said the Durbin plan would harm many small banks and credit unions that already lose or barely break even in their card operations.

The credit card companies said the change would force consumers to pay more for their cards and result in higher profits to large retailers. In a statement, MasterCard argued that similar regulations in Australia did not result in savings to retail customers.

“This amendment helps big merchants, but consumers will pay the price,” MasterCard said.

Small business lobby joins challenge to health law

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's most influential small business lobby is joining a court challenge to President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, arguing that Americans cannot be required under the Constitution to obtain insurance coverage.

The National Federation of Independent Business will announce Friday it is joining a federal lawsuit filed in Florida by 20 state attorneys general and governors, NFIB President Dan Danner said in an interview. All but one of the state officials are Republicans, and the case coincides with an election year.

NFIB's involvement ensures that constitutional arguments for overturning the health care law—even if they fail to sway federal judges—will be extensively aired in the fall campaigns. With 350,000 members, the group boasts a far-reaching network of local activists.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, a leader of the legal challenge and a GOP candidate for governor, said he has “received a lot of strong response and reaction in support when I have spoken of this subject. I think voters as a whole are concerned.”

A groundswell of opposition to the law from small business owners prompted NFIB's decision to join the court challenge, said Karen Harned, a senior lawyer for the group. “The second the law was signed, NFIB was hearing from its members: ‘What are you all going to do about this?’,” said Harned. “So we hunkered down. We looked around. This state attorneys general lawsuit made the most sense for us. It's the only one that has a national presence.”

The health care law, passed by a Congress divided on partisan lines, puts the nation on a path to coverage for all. One of its pillars is the requirement that most Americans carry health insurance—through an employer, a government program, or by buying their own policy.

The mandate is effective in 2014, when new competitive insurance markets open for business. Insurers will then be required to take all applicants, no longer allowed to turn away those in poor health. The government will offer tax credits to help middle-class households pay premiums. And Medicaid will be expanded to cover millions more low-income people.

Nation

Missing data causing rig reconstruction mystery

By ALLEN G. BREED and CURT ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

A “black box” can reveal why an airplane crashed or how fast a car was going in the instant before an accident. Yet there are no records of a critical safety test supposedly performed dur-

ing the fateful hours before the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.

They went down with the rig. While some data were being transmitted to shore for safekeeping right up until the April 20 blast, officials from Transocean, the rig owner, told Congress that the last seven hours

of its data are missing and that all written logs were lost in the explosion.

The gap poses a mystery for investigators: What decisions were made—and what warnings might have been ignored? Earlier tests, which suggested that explosive gas was leaking from the mile-

deep well, were preserved.

“There is some delay in the replication of our data, so our operational data, our sequence of events ends at 3 o’clock in the afternoon on the 20th,” Steven Newman, president and CEO of Transocean Ltd, told a Senate panel. The rig blew up at 10 p.m., killing 11 workers and unleashing a gusher that has spewed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf.

Houston attorney Tony Buzbee, who represents several rig workers involved in the accident, questioned whether what he called “the phantom test” was even performed.

“I can just tell you that the Halliburton hands were scratching their heads,” said Buzbee, whose clients include one of the Halliburton crew members responsible for cementing the well to prepare for moving the drilling rig to another site.

Buzbee said that when Halliburton showed BP PLC and Transocean officials the results of the pressure tests that suggested gas was leaking, the rig workers were put on “standby.” BP is the rig operator and leaseholder.

Buzbee said one of his clients told him the “Transocean and BP company people got their heads together,” and 40 minutes later gave the green light.

The attorney said the Halliburton crew members were not shown any new test results.

“They said they did their own tests, and they came out OK,” he said. “But with the phantom test that Transocean and BP allegedly did, there was no real record or real-time recordation of that test.”

Buzbee suggested that BP and Transocean had monetary reasons for ignoring the earlier tests.

“The facts are as they are,” he said. “The rig is \$500,000 a day. There are bonuses for finishing early.”

None of the three companies would comment Thursday on whether any data or test results were purposely not sent to shore, or on exactly who made the final decision to continue the operations that day.



This image from a video released by BP PLC shows oil spewing from a yellowish, broken pipe 5,000 feet below the surface. The oil looks like steam rushing from a geyser.

3 Pakistanis arrested in Times Square bomb probe

WATERTOWN, Mass. (AP)—Three Pakistani men who authorities say supplied funds to Times Square car bomb suspect Faisal Shahzad were arrested Thursday in a series of raids across the Northeast as the FBI followed the money trail in the failed attack.

Investigators said it was not yet clear whether the three men knew how the money was going to be used.

The men—two seized in the Boston area, one in Maine—were arrested as federal authorities searched homes and businesses in a coordinated series of raids centered in the Boston suburbs, on New York’s Long Island and in New Jersey.

They were arrested on immigration violations—administrative, not criminal, charges. They were not charged with any terrorism-related crimes. Their names were not released.

The raids resulted from evidence gathered in the investigation into the Times Square bomb attempt two weeks ago. FBI spokeswoman Gail Marcinkiewicz gave assurances Thursday that there was “no known immediate threat to the public or any active plot against the United States.”

In Washington, Attorney General Eric Holder said investigators believe there is evidence that the men were providing Shahzad, a Pakistan-born U.S.

citizen, with money, but they have yet to determine whether the men knew the funds might have been intended for a terrorist act.

A top Massachusetts law enforcement official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still going on, said investigators are not sure whether the two Boston-area men were witting accomplices or simply moving funds, as is common among people from the Middle East and Central Asia who live in the U.S.

“These people might be completely innocent and not know what they were providing money for,” the official cautioned, “but it’s clear there’s a connection.”

Softballs allowed in this Supreme Court debate

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Softball, that friendly, fun game many Americans grow up playing, suddenly finds itself entangled in a hardball debate about sexual orientation, editorial judgment and the future of the Supreme Court.

It all stems from speculation in the media that Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan is a lesbian.

Sparking the interest was a nearly two-decades-old picture of Kagan playing softball on the front page of Tuesday’s Wall Street Journal. That quickly morphed into an online debate

about whether the paper used the photo to make a point—essentially, that if she plays softball, she must be gay.

The newspaper denies the photo was used for any such purpose.

Nevertheless, the president of the International Softball Federation, Don Porter, felt the need to weigh in.

Porter insists softball is for everyone, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

“The media has chosen to try to put a label on athletes who play this sport,” he said. “I’ve heard more about softball that way in one week than I did about our sport, period,

in one year during” the campaign to get softball back in the Olympics.

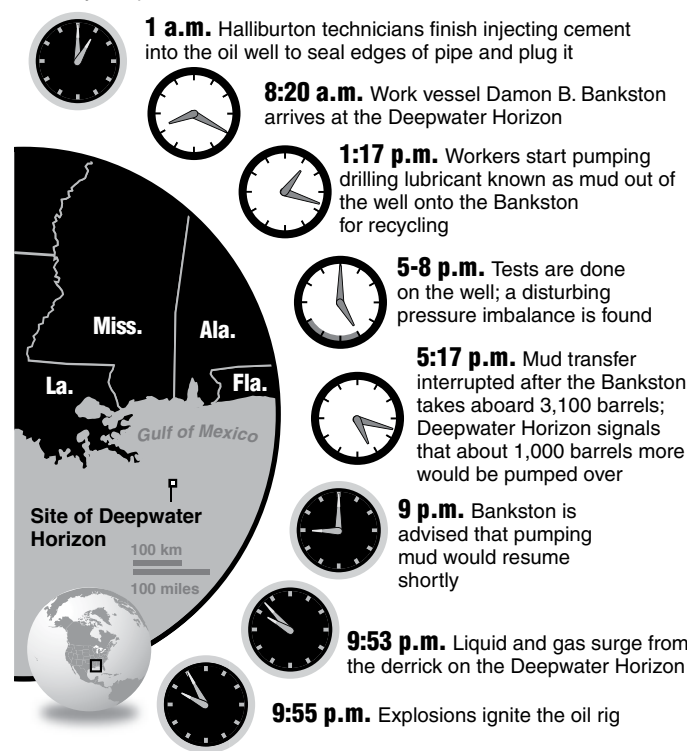
“While it’s good to hear our sport mentioned in the major media during the past few days, it has been more in a negative sense than positive. ...” he said.

Those who play and coach the game were equally dismayed.

“We’ve come so far,” said Jessica Mendoza, a two-time Olympian and president of the Women’s Sports Foundation, “and to have even one person think that showing a photo would correlate with someone’s orientation, I want to yell out and say, ‘Where have you been? Look around.’”

Day the oil rig exploded

Key events on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20, the day it exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.



Source: Minerals Management Service and the U.S. Coast Guard investigation testimony, McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible, Mark Washburn

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ACROSS THE NATION

Suspicious vehicle spotted in NYC’s Union Square

NEW YORK (AP)—Police are investigating a suspicious car near New York City’s Union Square. The car was spotted Thursday night not far from the Union Square subway station, where several lines connect. Police say two gas cans were seen in the back of the car. The area has been blocked off. The bomb squad and Emergency Service Unit are investigating.

Report: Few Hispanic high school dropouts earn GED

MIAMI (AP)—A report released Thursday by the Pew Hispanic Center found that one in 10 Hispanic students who drop out of high school go on to earn a General Equivalency Development degree. Educators and students say limited outreach, immigration and pressure to work may be to blame. Using data from the Census Bureau, researchers found that fewer Hispanic students earn a GED credential than white or black dropouts. Black students earned a GED at a rate of two in 10. For white students, the rate is three in 10. The nonpartisan research organization says the lower rate among Hispanics is notable because they also have higher dropout rates: 41 percent of Latinos ages 20 or older do not have a regular high school degree, compared to 23 percent of blacks and 14 percent of whites.

LA’s acclaimed anti-gang program lays off 300

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The country’s largest anti-gang program, Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, has laid off most of its employees be-

cause of a decline in donations. The Rev. Greg Boyle said Thursday that 300 people lost their jobs but the organization will continue to offer tattoo removal and counseling services. The silk-screening factory, landscaping company and other businesses where former rival gang members work side by side will be shut down. The Homegirl Cafe, which employs 100 people near downtown, will stay open. The acclaimed anti-gang program ran into financial trouble last year when contributions dried up and government contracts were cut. Boyle, a Jesuit priest, recently published a memoir about ministering with gang members entitled “The Power of Boundless Compassion.” He says he has also stopped taking a paycheck.

Man accused of attempting car-bomb suicide in Ariz

OATMAN, Ariz. (AP)—A man has been arrested after apparently attempting to commit suicide by driving a car rigged to explode off of a cliff in northwestern Arizona. Mohave County Sheriff’s officials say 55-year-old James Lyle Pierson, from Washington state, was booked Wednesday on suspicion of disorderly conduct involving a dangerous instrument. Authorities say Pierson rigged his four-door sedan with propane bottles, gasoline and shotgun shells in an attempt to make the car explode during a crash. But it didn’t go off when he drove off a steep embankment Tuesday night. Pierson survived, then walked eight miles to Oatman, where he called authorities. He was taken to a hospital where he was treated and later released. Police bomb technicians later rendered the vehicle safe.

Asia

US military base impasse could topple Japan leader

TOKYO (AP)—It is possibly the most controversial U.S. military facility in the world after the prison at Guantanamo Bay. Local residents like to call it the world's most dangerous base. An impasse over its future could bring down the government of a key U.S. ally.

But this hotspot isn't in Kyrgyzstan, or Afghanistan.

It's an airstrip on the sleepy, semitropical tourist haven of Okinawa that hasn't directly been involved in a conflict since the Japanese surrender in 1945 ended World War II. For

decades, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma has instead been a political quagmire—and now D-Day appears to be looming.

Haunted by a campaign pledge to relocate the base, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has vowed to settle the issue—or at least form a coherent set of proposals—by the end of this month. Polls suggest he will be under heavy pressure to resign, after barely nine months in office, if he fails to do so.

The debate has grown so convoluted and the pressure to find a compromise so intense

that Hatoyama is suggesting a replacement airstrip be built on raised pilings so as not to destroy marine life below—an expensive, high-tech option that experts doubt would work and which has so far failed to appease many Okinawans.

"It is a terrible idea," said Masaaki Gabe, a professor of international relations at the University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa's most prestigious college. "It's no better than the previous plan. It won't persuade Okinawans, and I don't think it will be welcomed by Washington, either."



In this Dec. 17, 2009 file photo, with the backdrop of crowded housing complex, a military transport plane takes off from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, Okinawa, Japan.

New violence in Bangkok after nightlong clashes

BANGKOK (AP)—Fresh violence erupted in the Thai capital Friday after a government attempt to blockade anti-government protesters and an assassination attempt on a rogue general supporting them triggered nightlong street clashes that killed one person.

The violence, which so far has claimed 30 lives and injured hundreds, plunged Thailand deeper into political uncertainty, with both sides hardening their positions.

Gunshots rang out throughout the night and into the morning in central Bangkok. At daybreak, a group of protesters captured and vandalized two military water cannon trucks at the intersection of Sathorn and Rama IV roads in the heart of the business district. They ripped the cannon from its moorings and used its plastic barrel to shoot firecrackers from behind a sandbag bunker they had commandeered from soldiers.

The so-called Red Shirt pro-

testers, who have taken over an upscale 1-square-mile (3-square-kilometer) area in central Bangkok, vowed they will not give up until the government resigns and early elections are called.

"I'm not scared. We are here only to ask for democracy. Why are we facing violence?" Mukda Saelim, 39, a mushroom farmer from Chonburi province, said. "I don't have anything to fight them, but I'm not afraid. You asked if this is safe? It's not."

News Agency said Friday that 31 workers were in the mine when the blast happened Thursday night, and that 10 managed to escape. It did not immediately give any other details. Although safety conditions have improved in the last several years, China's mining industry is by far the world's deadliest, with accidents and blasts killing more than 2,600 coal miners last year.

Banned Malaysian sect leader with 38 kids dies

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The founder of a banned Islamic sect has died in Malaysia, leaving behind three wives, 38 children and about 200 grandchildren, his daughter-in-law said Friday. Ashaari Muhammad died Thursday of a lung infection in a hospital in northern Perak state, his daughter-in-law Rohaya Mohamad said. He was 73. Ashaari, who used to head an Islamic sect that was deemed heretical and banned in 1994, shot into the limelight again last year when his fourth wife founded a "Polygamy Club" to promote the practice in Malaysia. Malaysian Muslims, who make up two-thirds of the country's 28 million people, are allowed to have up to four wives though polygamy is not widespread. Non-Muslims can only have one spouse.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Neighbors thought China attacker was a good man

LINCHENG, China (AP)—Neighbors in this lush but poor farm village say Wu Jianming seemed like a good, quiet man. They struggle now to understand how he could fly into a rage over unpaid rent, slashing and killing seven preschoolers and two adults with a cleaver. Neighbors heard screams early Wednesday coming from a preschool run out of Wu's two-story farmhouse, then heard Wu shout: "They owed me rent!" Police and rescue officials who rushed to the scene found more than a dozen dead or injured students, the school's administrator nearly decapitated and her 80-year-old mother barely clinging to life. Wu was in his home nearby, dead after apparently slashing his own throat. The case shocked China, prompting leaders to again call for increased school security. It was the deadliest of five such school rampages in less than two months.

China says death toll in mine blast rises to 21

BEIJING (AP)—State media says the death toll in a coal mine blast in southwest China's Guizhou province has risen to 21. The official Xinhua

World

A safari ends in tragedy for lone crash survivor

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The Dutch family—mom, dad and two young sons—were headed home from a dream safari in South Africa when their plane plunged to Earth in Libya. Rescuers found a single passenger alive: 9-year-old Ruben, still strapped in his seat.

The sole survivor slept peacefully Thursday, a stuffed orange Tigger tucked under his arm in a hospital room filled with bouquets of flowers. His left eye, forehead and slim torso were marked with bruises and scrapes; his left leg was immobilized in a blue and white cast.

Ruben smiled and spoke briefly to an aunt and uncle who rushed to his bedside from Holland, but has yet to be told his parents and 11-year-old brother are dead.

"He's awake. He's talking. He is listening," a Dutch Foreign Ministry official, Ed Kronenburg, told The Associated Press after visiting the boy. "Of course he also sleeps quite a lot because he got anesthesia yesterday and is still a bit dizzy."

The child was recovering well after 4 1/2 hours of surgery to repair multiple fractures to his legs, Kronenburg said.

Ruben, his brother Enzo and their parents Trudy and Patrick van Assouw had gone to South Africa during the boys' spring school vacation to celebrate the couple's 12 1/2-year wedding anniversary, a Dutch tradition.

In his travel blog, Patrick Van Assouw, wrote about the camping trip that took them through some of the world's most spectacular natural wonders—South Africa's Mac Mac Falls, the Kruger National Park game reserve and across the border into Swaziland and on to Lesotho.

Haiti prosecutors urge prison for US missionary

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A U.S. missionary should spend six months in prison for her failed attempt to remove 33 children from Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake, a prosecutor said Thursday on the first day of her trial.

Prosecutor Sonel Jean-Francois told the court that Laura Silsby knew she was breaking the law by trying to take the children without proper documents to an orphanage she was starting in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

"Laura recognized she violated the law," Jean-Francois

said as lawyers and a small group of spectators crowded into a stiflingly hot tent in the parking lot of the quake-damaged courthouse.

He spoke after the Idaho woman testified. Silsby, who was leader of a group of Baptists detained by authorities, was the only person to testify on the first day of the trial. She spent much of the rest of the session reading the Bible.

The 40-year-old businesswoman told the court she thought the children were orphans whose homes were destroyed in the earthquake. An Associated Press investigation

later revealed all the children had at least one living parent, who had turned their children over to the group in hopes of securing better lives for them.

"One week after the earthquake I left my family and my home to help children that had been orphaned in the earthquake," Silsby said. "We came here with a heart to help."

Silsby was originally charged with kidnapping and criminal association. She now faces one count of arranging illegal travel under a 1980 statute restricting travel out of Haiti signed by then-dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Mexican candidate killed in drug-plagued region

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Gunmen killed a candidate for mayor from President Felipe Calderon's conservative National Action Party on Thursday, and the party's leader said the victim and other candidates had received threats.

PAN leader Cesar Nava said candidate Jose Mario Guajardo had been "asked via threats to abandon his candidacy," and said his party would ask federal authorities to provide protection for some candidates.

"Like him, we have other candidates ... who we now

know have also been threatened," Nava said.

Calderon's office said in a press statement that his administration "condemns the cowardly assassination" and "repeats its commitment to continue combatting organized crime."

Both Calderon's statement and the 9 mm shell casings found at the scene—a caliber favored by Mexico's drug gunmen—suggested the possibility of cartel involvement in the killing of Guajardo, his son and an employee.

Calderon's office did not comment on any plans to provide protection for candidates.

Guajardo was gunned down in the northern border state of Tamaulipas, where his party says politicians are too scared to run for office because of death threats and rampant drug gang violence.

Guajardo, who was running for mayor of Valle Hermoso—a town about 30 miles (50 kilometers) south of Brownsville, Texas—was shot in the offices of his agricultural supplies company.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chile cops raid house of Embassy detainee's friend

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Police found traces of an explosives material on clothes seized at the home of a Pakistani who was detained after the same substance was detected on documents and a cell phone he carried on a visit this week to the U.S. Embassy, Chile's state television said Thursday night. National prosecutor Sabas Chahuan said that "I think there is a crime" and that after the investigation into Mohammed Saifur Rehman Khan is complete authorities "will have concrete results." Khan, 28, is being held for a week under Chile's anti-terrorism laws while being investigated for alleged explosives violations. He was summoned to the U.S. Embassy on Monday because his U.S. visa had been revoked, and he was arrested after security equipment detected traces of explosives on his phone and papers.

Offshore gas platform sinks off Venezuela; no leak

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A natural-gas platform sank off Venezuela on Thursday after workers escaped in lifeboats and the last few leaped into the Caribbean Sea. The oil minister said there was no threat to the environment and all 95 workers were safely evacuated. Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez told state television that workers disconnected a tube leading from the gas fields to the Aban Pearl platform, preventing any leak or harm to marine life. He said alarms went off three hours before the sinking, giving the crew time to evacuate. Many stepped into lifeboats and drifted free, said Abraham Natera, the rig's superintendent. Ramirez said the Indian captain and two assistants, including an American, stayed behind until the platform was badly tilting and about to collapse, and then hurled themselves into the water.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Aquino and Roxas top overseas absentee votes

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Senators Benigno Aquino III and Manuel Roxas II of the Liberal Party topped the overseas absentee votes from Hong Kong and Singapore for president and vice president, respectively, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday.

The DFA-Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat (DFA-OAVS), in a statement, said election results transmitted by the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong and the Philippine embassy in Singapore were successfully transmitted to the Commission of Elections server in Manila Monday night.

In Hong Kong, 39,383 out of 95,355 registered Filipino voters cast their ballots in 96 clustered precincts.

Aquino led the presidential race with 19,606 votes, followed by Eddie Villanueva of Bangon Pilipinas with 8,327 votes and Senator Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (NP) with 5,622 votes.

The others were Lakas-CMD bet Gilberto Teodoro Jr. (2,556), Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino's Joseph Estrada (1,980), Bagumbayan-VNP's Senator Richard Gordon (945), Kilusang Bagong Lipunan's (KBL) Vetellano Acosta (58), independent candidate Jamby Madrigal (30), Ang Kapatiran's John Carlos delos Reyes (26) and independent Nicamor Perlas (20).

For vice president, Roxas got

Observers watch the first day of the manual counting of ballots early Tuesday morning at the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Aquino

19,837 votes, followed by Sen. Loren Legarda of the Nationalist People's Coalition with 6,885 and Bangon Pilipinas' Perfecto



Roxas

Yasay with 6,353 votes. Placing fourth was PDP-Laban's Jejomar Binay (4,083), followed by Bagumbayan-

VNP's Bayani Fernando (998), Lakas-CMD's Eduardo Manzano (639), KBL's Jose Sonza (103) and Ang Kapatiran's Dominador Chipeco (20).

For senators, those who landed in the Magic 12 were: Senator Ramong "Bong" Revilla Jr. (22,020); Ralph Recto (20,495); Franklin Drilon (19,982); Jinggoy Estrada (19,946); Miriam Defensor-Santiago (19,739); Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (18,555); Juan Ponce Enrile (16,479); Vicente Sotto III (14,262); Pilar Juliana Cayetano (13,817); Serge Osmena III (11,690); Jose de Venecia III (11,263), and; Teofisto Guingona III (10,853).

In Singapore, 9,588 out of

31,851 cast their ballots in 32 clustered precincts.

Unofficial results there showed that Aquino led the presidential race with 4,949 votes, followed by Villar (1,314) and Gordon (1,105).

At fourth place was Teodoro (1,024), followed by Villanueva (711), Estrada (345), Madrigal (19), Perlas (19), Acosta (17) and Delos Reyes (12).

For Vice President, Roxas led all candidates with 5,017 votes, followed by Legarda (1,617) and Bagumbayan-VNP's Bayani Fernando (1,060), Binay (1,056), Yasay (386), Manzano (247), Sonza (71) and Chipeco (15).

For senators, the top 12 are: Recto (5,651); Defensor-Santiago (5,534); Drilon (5,472); Cayetano (4,394); Revilla (4,373); Osmena (4,085); Marcos (3,906); Enrile (3,899); Guingona (3,825); Sotto (3,711); Estrada (3,120); Roco (2,679), and; De Venecia (2,679).

The DFA-OAVS said that other embassies and consulates general canvassed the votes manually after polling ended at 7 p.m.

A total of 134,000 registered overseas voters participated in the overseas absentee voting (OAV) on election day, surpassing the 2007 voter turnout of 81,732.

The DFA-OAVS, through its OAVS Monitoring and Action Center, is operating 24 hours a day to receive the results of voting in all the embassies and consulates general around the world. It is expected to receive all results on or before May 15.

Nestor Padalhin, DFA-OAVS vice chairman, said that the results transmitted at the OAVS-MAC were unofficial, as the official canvassing was done at the Comelec and the National Board of Canvassers at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Foreign Undersecretary for Special Concerns Rafael Seguis, DFA-OAVS chairman, thanked the volunteers and other groups who helped the diplomatic posts during the voting period.

For the foreign service posts who adopted postal or personal voting, a preliminary certificate of canvassing is being faxed to the DFA-OAVS on the results of voting in their area of jurisdiction after the counting of ballots.

Peso expected to strengthen to 42:\$1

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Goldman Sachs is bullish on the peso, saying the currency may hit as high as 42:\$1 within the short term on the back of the sustained rise in overseas Filipino workers' remittances and inflows from export of information technology services.

In a paper entitled "Philippine: Two Engines of Flows Power the Economy as it Steers Through Elections," Goldman Sachs said that despite the usual election-related concerns, dollars flowing into the economy would remain robust because of strong demand for Filipino workers by companies offshore, and the steady rise in revenue of the business process outsourcing sector.

The international investment bank said the peso could hit 43.6 within three months and 42.5 to \$1

within six months. In the next 12 months, Goldman Sachs said, the peso could hit 42.

"We expect remittances to remain strong and supportive of growth and the peso. Our long-held view on the drivers of stable remittances remain intact," it said in the paper.

Goldman Sachs said it expected remittances to the Philippines to rise by 10 percent from \$17.3 billion last year. This is higher than the central bank's projection of a 6-percent remittances growth this year.

It said the likelihood of the central bank raising policy rates starting July would also put upward pressure on the peso.

Goldman Sachs said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas might raise key rates by a total of 75 basis points this year. Currently, policy rates stand at 4 percent and 6 percent for overnight borrowing and lending, respectively.



FMI, Mobil tie-up for island cleanup projects

For the 4th years in a row, the Friends Of The Mariana Islands, FMI, has received financial support from Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. for

various environmental project.

This Sunday, May 16, 2010, the Friends Of The Mariana Islands will start the environmental project at Lau-

Lau Road all the way down to the beach. This cleanup will continue for 12 Sundays as called for in the project proposal. (PR)

Migrant Workers Act to give more tax benefits to OFWs

Republic Act No. 10022 or the Migrant Workers Act recently lapsed into law, which among others, amended the definition of "Overseas Filipino workers" as referring to a "person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a citizen or on board a vessel navigating the foreign seas other than a government ship used for military or non-commercial purposes or on an installation located offshore or on the high seas;

to be used interchangeably with migrant worker."

More importantly, with respect to Philippine taxation, Section 22 of the law now exempts migrant workers from the payment of travel tax and airport-fee upon proper showing of proof entitlement by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Moreover, the remittances of all overseas Filipino workers, upon showing of the same proof of entitlement by the overseas

Filipino worker's beneficiary or recipient, shall also be exempt from the payment of documentary stamp tax.

Prior to the passage of the law, all money transfers from abroad and payable in the Philippines, including those wired home by overseas Filipino workers, were subject to the documentary stamp tax at a rate of P0.30 for every P200. Such tax would be shouldered by the workers on top of the bank remittance fees. (Cebu Daily News)

Why the low turnout among overseas absentee voters

By **ILANG-ILANG QUIJANO, MI-GRANTE OAV WATCH**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The month-long overseas absentee voting is about to come to an end. Yet, the initial turnout tells of the statistical impossibility of even coming close to a passing percentage. It is a far cry from the government's confident target of 60 to 70 percent.

In the most recent count of the Department of Foreign Affairs, only 81,732 Filipinos abroad voted from April 10 to May 7. This is just about 13.85 percent of the total 589,830 overseas Filipinos registered to vote in the national elections this year.

Even Hong Kong, which is the consistent OAV topnotcher and is expected to yield a much higher figure because of election automation, delivered a shockingly low turnout, only over 33,000 cast their votes, just half of the Philippine consulate's target of 60,000 or less than a third of the 95,355 total registrants.

The figures are much more disappointing if we compare them to the results of the 2004 presidential elections. In the first OAV, 64 percent of the 233,092 voted. This is twice the present running total of overseas votes. In Hong Kong, about 65,000 voted in 2004, more than double the current initial count.

Lazy electorate?

Before the OAV started, the Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat and the Commission on Elections' Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting were proudly assuring the public that they were geared and prepared for a high turnout.

In the three-day OAV training for the Philippines' foreign service corps, Ambassador Nestor Padalhin, vice chairman of the DFA-Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat, gave his personal guarantee that the turnout would not go far from the 2004 results, supposedly because of the government's competent machinery. "(But) despite everything that we are doing, promoting it, campaigning...the bottom line is still the voter."

It is short of saying that a low turnout could be attributed only to a lazy and irresponsible electorate. So is it really the overseas voters' fault?

Unaddressed problems

In 2004, a joint congressional oversight committee was created to investigate the dismal results of the first OAV. The problems identified were: short period of registration, lack of voting centers, limited day-offs, and additional costs for OFWs to vote.

Based on reports of Filipino migrant organizations in Hong Kong, Middle East, and Europe, it appeared that the government failed to address these factors.

For one, the 12-month registration period was not imple-



A Filipino voter writes on a ballot inside a makeshift precinct in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines, Monday, May 10, 2010. AP

mented. The Comelec decreased it to 10 months. Instead of opening it in December 2008, registration only started in February 2009 and ended last August, four months less than the prescribed period.

Calls for an extension were dismissed by the Commission on Elections. "Many were disenfranchised because of the shortened registration," said John Leonard Monterona, Migrante's coordinator for the Middle East.

Lack of education

Monterona claimed that voters' education drives were very limited. Scant information was provided by the embassies, consulates, and other establishments. Those who got it had it only by chance—because they happened to be in the embassy for another matter.

There are around 1.8 million Filipinos in the Middle East and Africa, but only 225,148 are registered voters. So far, only around 18,000 participated in the polls.

In Europe, the embassies did almost nothing to encourage and educate the voters. According to Rio Mondelo, communications officer of Migrante-Europe, "though there were government efforts to reach out to our kababayan, these were in partnership with Migrante-Europe and other (non-government) organizations. Of course, in our own capacity, we can't cover the majority of the potential migrant voters," he said.

There are 61,294 registered voters in Europe. Only 3,858 voted on the first week of the OAV.

It is particularly important to educate voters in Hong Kong where the first automated elections system is being held. The United Filipinos in Hong Kong said the information drive was

done through the initiative of OFW groups. It was only in March when the Comelec assembled migrant leaders for a voters' education.

Dolores Balladares, Unifil head, reported that since the Philippine post acted too late, voters' education was still being held until the third week of voting when the focus should have already shifted to bringing the voters to the polling places. "We offered help by informing the voters about their precincts and sequence numbers," she said. "But what did the Comelec do? It reconfigured the precincts a few days before the opening of the OAV. All our efforts just went down the drain and provided another reason to confuse voters further."

Because of this, at least 140 OFWs were not able to find themselves on the list on the first day of voting. Out of the 95,355 voters in Hong Kong, only 5,389 were able to vote on the first week.

Distant polling places

There are other factors that discouraged OFWs. Not only are there few voting centers, most of which are based in embassies and consulates, but these centers are also inaccessible given the limited time and money.

"The embassy is far from the concentration of Filipinos in the Netherlands, like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Utrecht," said Mondelo. "More than an hour of travel is needed to reach the embassy and we need to spend 20 euros (P1,200) just to get there."

Monterona said 40 percent of OFWs in Saudi Arabia are located in provinces and cities, away from voting centers located in Jeddah, Riyadh, and Al Khobar-Dammam. Aside from the travel expense, migrants also face the

difficulty of asking permission from their employers. "Two days are needed for travel. The Friday day-off is not enough especially for those staying in far-flung areas," he said.

For OFWs in remote locations, the Comelec implemented postal voting. Officials sent 138,113 OFWs in 49 countries with ballots through mail. The answered ballots must be mailed back and must reach the Comelec on or before May 10 for these to be counted.

Garry Martinez, Migrante International chairperson, said his group received reports from Europe and the US of numerous mailed ballots returned to embassies because of wrong addresses. In New York, 1,000 postal ballots returned. "There is also no guarantee that the OFW will receive the ballots because (his) employer might not hand it over to him," he said.

Worse, in Italy, OFWs received OAV packets without the most important item—the official ballot, according to a report Migrante received from Ugnayan ng mga Manggagawang Migrante Tungo sa Pag-unlad.

Other questions on the postal voting remain unanswered: What if a ballot gets lost in the inefficient postal system? What if an answered ballot does not come in time for the counting? Where and how will the postal ballots be counted? These uncertainties make the postal system very vulnerable to manipulation.

OFWs in Saudi Arabia raised concerns on the non-use of indelible ink. "The indelible ink performs a special security function, and that is to ensure no flying voters or ghost voters could cast their votes, especially after allowing the manual tagging system," Monterona said.

With both the missing ink and

the new tagging system in place, voters can't help but speculate a planned shady scheme.

Diminishing interest

Migrant leaders also admitted that many OFWs have already lost interest in voting. "Many of our kababayan have lost faith in the Comelec. They see the electoral process as already tainted with fraud and corruption," said Mondelo.

"A big factor in having second thoughts in voting is the perception that the previous elections did not result in a change in the system. This was further reinforced after the 'Hello Garci' scandal and issues of election-related violence," added Balladares.

Monterona said OFWs go abroad to give their families a better life. "Their prime concern is their economic needs," he said. "They will really think twice about sacrificing a day's pay for registration and/or an electoral process they do not trust at all."

Still, the migrant groups have not lost hope. They are continuously educating fellow OFWs to raise the level of awareness and participation in the elections.

While criticizing the shortcomings of electoral institutions, they forwarded concrete suggestions to increase the number of voters. Included in their proposals is having OFWs register before leaving the country through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration or the airport.

Unifil-HK proposed additional registration locations and satellite voting centers, particularly in distant areas with a large Filipino concentration.

The group believes that the key to the OAVs success is political will. There must be sufficient machinery and funds earmarked to raise the awareness of overseas Filipinos on the OAV as an important political exercise, it says.

The question as to whether who is accountable for the low turnout is not debatable. The problem rests entirely on the ill-preparedness and ill conduct of Philippine officials in charge of the OAV. The resulting massive disenfranchisement further marginalizes OFWs from the nation's political process.

It can be considered a huge crime by the government, given that the Philippine economy is being kept afloat by the Filipino migrant worker's unparalleled sacrifices abroad.

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Marcoses wins signal return to Philippine politics

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines—Nearly a quarter-century after Imelda Marcos and her dictator husband fled the Philippines in disgrace—leaving a debt-ridden country but a lavish collection of shoes—the 80-year-old former first lady and two of their children are poised to revive the family's political fortunes.

At first sight, the outcome is surprising in an election that also looks set to award the son of the Marcoses' nemesis, "people power" President Corazon Aquino, the country's top office. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III campaigned heavily against corruption—endemic in the Philippines and allegedly practiced by the Marcos dictatorship on a massive scale.

But their family name still holds clout.

Imelda Marcos won a seat in the House of Representatives, where she also was elected in 1995, and her eldest daughter, Imee, also a former member of Congress, was elected governor in the family's northern bailiwick, Ilocos Norte province. Her son, former governor and current Congress member Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., likely won his Senate race, according to almost-complete results of Monday's vote.

With Marcos Jr.'s rise to the Senate, the Marcoses would claim their highest nationally elected post since their patriarch was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt.

"I thank the Lord, the Ilocanos, the Filipino people for the overwhelming mandate for the Marcoses in spite of all the odds," Imelda Marcos told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Wednesday. "The Filipino people can be assured of our selfless and endless service and love to all."

Marcos is forever remembered for her collection of eye-popping diamonds and 1,220 pairs of shoes discovered in the abandoned presidential palace after Ferdinand Marcos and his family were sent into US exile, ending his 20-year dictatorship and leaving the country's economy faltering under huge debts.

He died in 1989, and his widow returned to the Philippines in 1991 with her children, twice ran unsuccessfully for president and won a seat in the House of Representatives in 1995.

She retained her supporters despite



In this Monday May 10, 2010, photo, flamboyant former first lady Imelda Marcos, 81, left, and children Imee and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, all candidates, arrive to vote at a polling precinct in Batac township, Ilocos Norte province in northern Philippines in the first ever automated national elections.

her reputation for extravagance, including shopping trips to the world's poshest boutiques and lavish beautification projects in an impoverished nation where a third of about 90 million Filipinos live on \$1 a day.

Despite some 900 civil and criminal cases she has faced in Philippine courts since 1991—ranging from tax evasion to embezzlement and corruption—she has emerged relatively unscathed and has never served prison time. All but a handful of the cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence and a few convictions were overturned on appeal.

The Marcoses and the Aquinos are the most prominent of the Philippines' wealthy political dynasties and are inextricably linked.

A court found that Aquino's father, an opposition leader, was assassinated in a military conspiracy during Marcos' rule. Aquino's mother then led the mass protests that swept away the strongman and restored democracy. Only after his mother died last year of cancer did Aquino, a quiet senator and former House member,

decide to seek the presidency.

If Aquino wins, "I will pray for his success because his success will be for our country and the Filipino people," Imelda Marcos said.

She said she hoped Aquino will be successful in fulfilling his campaign promise to fight corruption, while she rejected as "lies" allegations that her husband engaged in massive kleptocracy, graft and human rights abuses.

"The Filipino people have not forgotten because even in this campaign they continuously resuscitate the lies about the Marcoses and they keep repeating that, but the Filipino people are getting to know more and more the truth," Marcos said.

Her husband and his associates allegedly amassed an estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion in ill-gotten wealth while he was in power. The Presidential Commission on Good Government, created to recover the money, has found cash and assets totaling \$5.1 billion pesos (around \$1.9 billion).

Aquino, in an interview with AP last week, said as president he would

set up a body to determine whether Marcos, a World War II soldier, should be given a hero's burial as the Marcos family has been demanding.

He also said he wants a truth commission formed to bring closure to questions about his father's assassination, including alleged links to Marcos.

Political analyst Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, said Imelda and Imee's victories were expected since they ran in their stronghold—known as the "solid north" for voters' loyalty to the Marcos family.

But he said many overlooked Ferdinand Jr.'s bid for the Senate as they focused on the presidential race and in the absence of a concerted opposition effort against him. Two leftist politicians who were among Marcos' noisiest critics ran alongside him in the same party, Casiple added.

"Many of the electorate were young. So the main factor was name recall and who would not know a Marcos," Casiple said.

MONEY SMARTS

What OFWs need to do

By KAREN GALARPE
Bank of the Philippine Islands
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

While on a recent trip to Japan, I heard a story about an OFW driver who nearly wasted away his earnings. He worked in Japan for close to 30 years, and at one point was earning an equivalent of P400,000 a month with overtime pay. He had a wife and child back home in the Philippines and was able to send his child to school. However, he was always out drinking at bars in expensive Tokyo while having several relationships with other women. "Puro good time," they say.

Well the guy wasn't able to hold on to his job due to his drinking problem. His employer asked him to resign, and he was given an equivalent of P2 million as separation pay.

His Filipino friends could only shake their heads in disbelief at how he wasted away the opportunity to have a well-paying job, and how he was not able to save any money to make his life better. Last they heard, he was back home, bought himself a tricycle which he drives for a living, and is staying with his parents since he could not afford to buy a house of his own.

Filipinos who leave the country to work overseas do so to earn more money in order to help support their families back home. However, not every OFW gets to lay out a stable financial future.

The problem, says Raul D. Dimayuga, senior vice-president and head of the global remittance division of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, is "initially a lack of awareness of what to do. For many of [OFWs], it is the first time that they are able to receive a larger amount of money than what they used to and if they are not properly advised, they would tend to use the funds for consumption."€

This is why BPI has embarked on providing a financial literacy program to its clients, especially OFWs and their beneficiaries. It has conducted the BPIInoy Learning Series caravans in Iloilo, Cavite, Dumaguete, Davao, and most recently, in Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro, among others. The series seeks to show that financial control is possible even away from home. By using interactive modules, participants are taught how to save, invest and make use of available technology to do banking transactions. BPI services and products designed specifically for the global Filipino are also introduced, such as the BPIInoy Remittance, BPIInoy Savings Account, BPIInoy Save-up (build up savings account with free life insurance), BPIInoy loan products, and Credit Card.

Dimayuga says these are the basics that an OFW must have to be on the road to financial stability:

1 An account for himself separate from that of his beneficiary. "This way he is able to segregate his savings from his transactional account, i.e., funds needed by his beneficiary for day-to-day expenses."

2 A plan for himself in terms of how much to save and set aside as budget for the family expenses which he agrees on with his beneficiary. "This way his plans are aligned with that of his family and the road to financial stability becomes a family affair. Ideally, he should be saving between 10 to 20 percent of his monthly income."

3 An investment plan. "Overseas Filipinos contribute substantially to our country's growing economy. As a bank, we want to provide financial education to empower our global Filipinos to fulfill their dreams that fueled their decision to go abroad," adds Teresita B. Tan, head of overseas banking and channel services group of BPI.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

3 Filipinos onboard hijacked Taiwanese vessel—Meco

MANILA, Philippines—Three Filipino seafarers are among the crewmembers of a Taiwanese fishing vessel hijacked by Somali pirates last May 6, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office said Wednesday. MECO Resident Representative Antonio I. Basilio said the information was confirmed by Deputy Director General Bau Shun of the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs' East Asia and Pacific Affairs following reports that appeared in Taiwan media. Basilio said that based on the information received by Taiwan foreign affairs ministry, Joseph A. Tezano, Paul D. Garde, and Layco Renyn were onboard the "Tai Yuan 227" when the ship was seized by Somali pirates northwest of the Seychelles Islands. As of Tuesday, the vessel was reported to be very close to the coast of Somalia. A report from Eu-

ropean Union Naval Force Somalia (EUNFS), the Tay Yuan 227 carried a crew of 28, including nine Chinese, three Vietnamese, three Filipinos, seven Kenyans, and two Mozambique seamen. The EUNFS is a multinational force that tries to protect international vessels plying the Gulf of Aden from rampant piracy and to keep sea lanes open for food aid shipments to Somalia. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

E-passport processing time doubled

MANILA, Philippines—The processing time of electronic passports (e-passports) has been doubled due to a flood of applications, the Department of Foreign Affairs told INQUIRER.net. Assistant Secretary Renato Villapando, head of the DFA's Office of Consular Affairs, said regular processing has been extended from 12 to 20 days, express processing from six to 10 days. The vaca-

tion months of March to May are the peak months for passport applications. And coupled with the desire of many Filipino to have e-passports, the DFA now receives some 4,000 applications a day for the travel document with an electronic chip. "Everyone is in a hurry to travel. That's why we have remedial measures, like the issuance of the green (machine-readable) passports for those who are in a hurry," Villapando said. Over the first two weeks of March when the e-passport went full blast, the DFA received at least 30,000 applications. "These are birth pains of a new system. That's why we adjusted the release of the passports," Villapando said. "To cope with the backlog," he has ordered a 24-hour production of the e-passports in Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Fee for regular processing of e-passport is P950, that for machine-readable passport is P500. An additional fee of P250 is charged for expedited processing. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Filipino sensation Charice wants to conquer America

By **GLENN GAMBOA**
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Charice shakes her head.

“No,” she says, giggling, as she sits with her younger brother, Carl, who shakes his head as well before returning his attention to a video game. “I can’t even think about it. I can’t.”

“Really,” she continues, fidgeting a bit with her blinged-out “LOVE” necklace, and readjusting herself in the plush chairs of her publicist’s conference room. “I can’t think about it.”

But as she breaks into a broad smile, it’s clear that Charice, who recently dropped her last name Pempengco, does think about “it,” about joining the ranks of divas so famous they need only one name, about becoming the next Whitney or Mariah or Celine, about becoming the first female singer from the Philippines to break into the American mainstream.

It’s clear that she’s thought about it, dreamed about it, for years. It’s just that now as her single “Pyramid” seems poised to take over the top spot on the dance charts and her debut album “Charice” (Reprise) hit stores Tuesday with an unusually large marketing push for a new artist—the dream is close enough to

come true, yet still far enough away that it could evaporate before she reaches it.

Having already tasted success and then disappointment, Charice, who turned 18 Monday, seems determined not to get ahead of herself.

“I’m ready for my album to not be a hit,” she says. “I just want to help my mom and my family. I’m just happy to be singing my own songs for people ... I want it to be a hit. But it’s fine if it’s not huge like Mariah or Whitney. It’s all good for me.”

However, considering the all-star team behind Charice, expectations may be a bit higher than just “good.”

Superstar-producer David Foster, who launched the careers of Josh Groban and Michael Buble, produced her debut. Superstar-songwriter Diane Warren wrote songs for her. Her publicity is being handled by the same team as Madonna.

And then there’s Oprah Winfrey. Having already taken Charice under her star-making wing, introducing the singer to her idol, Celine Dion, and relaying her story on the powerful talk show, Winfrey took the unusual step of bringing Charice back to the show on the day of her album release.

“That’s the kind of launch people dream of,” says a competing music in-

dustry exec. “I would give anything to be on ‘Oprah’ on release day.”

Of course, many consider Charice to be a special circumstance. “Charice is, for sure, the next global superstar,” Foster said recently. “And I’m thrilled that we have a new great female vocalist!”

At her showcase at the Canal Room last month, Tommy Page, Warner Bros.’ vice president of Top 40 radio promotion, introduced Charice by saying how watching her sing in a conference room still manages to make him choke up.

“This is history in the making,” Page says, before she takes the stage. “What she has is so rare.”

Then, she set out to prove it, with songs from “Charice” that show off the big, booming voice housed in her petite, 5-foot-1 frame and her ability to win fans over to her side quickly. That’s a talent Charice has always had, from her early days of entering talent shows near her home in the Laguna province of the Philippines to her stints on the Filipino and Korean versions of “American Idol.”

It also translated well to YouTube, where her performances of Houston and Celine Dion songs made her a sensation and attracted the attention of Ellen DeGeneres and Winfrey, who flew her to America for her first visits,



DONNA WARD/ABACA PRESS/MCT

Charice Pempengco attends the 82nd Annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on the streets of Manhattan in New York City, November 27, 2008. Charice, who recently dropped her last name Pempengco, does think about “it,” about joining the ranks of divas so famous they need only one name.

to be on their talk shows.

It was the first “Oprah” appearance that stuck with her most, especially after Winfrey surprised her by introducing her to Dion via satellite.

“I was so confused,” Charice recalls, adding that she had prepared to sing the Beyonce song “Listen,” but Winfrey’s staff kept telling her that she should sing a Dion song instead. After Charice sang “My Heart Will Go On,” she turned around to see that Dion had been watching her performance.

“I was about to faint,” she says. “I cried, and my mom cried, and Oprah cried, too; and she says, ‘I knew this was going to happen, but I’m still crying.’”

That introduction led to Charice’s Madison Square Garden debut, performing “Because You Loved Me” with Dion during her concert last year. “That night, I thought I was going to die,” she says, laughing. “Celine was really, really nice that time.”

Those appearances have given Charice a considerable advantage over most new artists. However, she recognizes she has some hurdles to face, as well. “My mom always tells me, ‘It’s only the beginning, there are challenges coming your way,’” Charice says.

Christine Bacareza Balance, assistant professor of Asian-American Studies at the University of California, Irvine, who has followed Charice’s rise to fame, agrees. “The recording industry is a very black-and-white sort of place,” Balance says. “It’s difficult to see where she would fit in as an icon because there hasn’t been somebody who looks like her. There’s been no precedent.”

That said, Balance says Charice can make a compelling case. “She has the range, and she has the talent,” she says. “She can also show that she’s trying to live ‘The American Dream.’”

Charice says she’s ready to work hard to make that dream come true. “That’s my life: work, Internet, talk to my friends, school, sleep,” she says. “I’m enjoying it.

For me, that’s my teenage life.”

And she lets herself indulge in a bit of that dream for a moment as she talks about the video for her single “Pyramid.”

“The concept of the video is my past,” she says. “I get cut in an audition. I’m so depressed, and then I’m transformed into. ...”

She catches herself quickly before continuing. “I don’t want to say ‘superstar,’ because I’m not that, but in the video, I become a singer, a real singer,” she says, laughing. “I guess I can call myself that now.”

MORE THRILLERS, AND NOT JUST FROM MANILA

Though Charice is on her way to becoming the most famous singer to come from the Philippines, she has some big stars to surpass. Here’s a look:

APL.DE.AP (ALLAN PINEDA)

Originally from: Pampanga

Best known as: Co-founder of The Black Eyed Peas with will.i.am, making mainstream hip-hop music that has been among the most successful in history. He also has made the most successful Tagalog songs in American pop music, as part of Black Eyed Peas albums.

Biggest hit: “I Gotta Feeling” (No. 1 for 14 weeks, 2009)

JOEY SANTIAGO

Originally from: Manila

Best known as: Guitarist for The Pixies, the pioneering band that helped establish the alternative rock sound with classic albums “Surfer Rosa” and “Doolittle.”

Biggest hit: “Here Comes Your Man” (No. 3 Modern Rock, 1989)

MANNY PACQUIAO

Originally from: South Cotabato

Best known as: The WBO welterweight champion, though the international boxing star is also an actor, politician and, yes, a singer.

Biggest hit: No American music hits yet, but that may change if his on-again, off-again fight with Floyd Mayweather ever happens.

A hit with Winfrey, singer tries to win over teens

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Charice already has won over the mom market.

The teen wunderkind from the Philippines has been wowing audiences with her big voice and Celine Dion covers on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show,” “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and other shows for the past two years. This week, she appeared on Winfrey’s show for the fourth time.

But as she releases her self-titled debut album this week, Charice finds herself with a serious challenge as she tries to translate her success with an adult audience to her peers.

“I’ve been singing big songs, and this is actually the first time they are going to hear me sing Justin Bieber-type of songs, Miley Cyrus-type of songs,” the 18-year-old said recently. “I’m just excited for all the teenagers to hear my album.”

Had Charice come along around the era of Dion or Whitney Houston, two of her idols, it would have been easier to make that move. Back then, big-ballad singers with towering voices dominated pop radio.

These days, it’s the grooves behind the big voice that matter.

David Foster, the Grammy-winning mentor behind Charice, probably knows that better than anyone. A legendary producer who has made hits for Houston, Dion, Barbra Streisand, Toni Braxton and dozens of other top names, Foster understands his sound is not what makes hits on pop radio anymore

(although he still makes hits as the producer behind multiplatinum stars Josh Groban and Michael Buble).

“I knew if I produced the album, it would be adult-oriented. It would skew older. It would be maybe a quick, easy sale, but ultimately, it’s very, very hard to skew younger after you start older, so we made a conscious decision to skew young first,” he said. “I don’t want to say that we crumbled under the pressure of having to go youthful, but I think we hit it square on.”

Though Foster and his sister Jaymes are the album’s executive producers, they left most of the music-making to younger writers and producers like Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic, whose hits include Beyonce’s “Halo” and Leona Lewis’ “Bleeding Love.”

The album’s first single is “Pyramid,” featuring singer Iyaz.

“I just thought like, teenagers are falling in love ... they love this very catchy and very romantic words from all these young artists,” Charice said. “That’s why I thought that this album ... they are gonna love it, all the lyrics, all the melody and all the music.”

So far, “Pyramid” is No. 2 on the dance charts, but it has not yet translated to pop radio. Foster is aware of the challenge it takes to make a hit, but he thinks Charice has a lot to add to the scene.

“There is a lack of organic music right now, and it’s fine—it’s just the phase that we’re in,” he explains. “I think there is room for some more musicality.”

There’s no denying Charice has that.

During a recent interview, the diminutive singer belted out “Pyramid” on request, performed a stirring rendition of Houston’s “I Will Always Love You” for an audience of four, then continued to sing even on her way out the door.

Singing has consumed Charice, born Charmaine Clarice Relucio Pempengco, since she was a child growing up in the Philippines. Raised with her brother by a single mother, she sang in local contests and appeared on TV talent shows in the Philippines and in South Korea.

Fans posted clips of her on YouTube, and she became a sensation. Soon, she was invited to sing on “Ellen,” then on “Oprah Winfrey,” and linked up with Foster.

So far, her rise has unfolded like a fairy tale. But Charice knows there are hurdles, like trying to capture U.S. audiences.

“It’s really, really hard ... there’s a lot of great pop stars here. ... They’re all talented,” she said. “I don’t know if Americans are going to love me because I’m from other country.”

But Foster said it is only a matter of time before there’s an Asian superstar in the United States, and he believes Charice might be the one.

“Being a great singer is not enough, and she has the entire package,” he said.

He adds: “She’s a little bit like Michael Jackson in the head ... Michael Jackson was very soft-spoken and quiet and all that, but he was genius inside his head. He knew exactly where he was going, and she truly is the master of her own destiny.”

Maharlika – Opinyon

Lessons from history

It is, indeed, like a script from heaven. The elections happened, and there were no grim scenarios that Noynoy volunteers had primed themselves for. Yet, Noynoy won, almost like a walk in the park. Of course, no presidential candidate and vice-presidential candidate has been proclaimed as of this time as I comply with the deadline of my submission of this article. There are legal niceties that have to be observed, preventing Noynoy Aquino and Jojo Binay from being formally acknowledged as having won. These small obstacles, though, do not stand in the way of my accepting that destiny has maneuvered a partnership against all odds.

Since the difference of votes between Jojo Binay and Mar Roxas is only a few percentage points, there is a mixed and muted celebration among many in the Aquino camp. The Noy-Mar tandem had become a fixture in thought and imagination of their supporters since September of last year that a Noy-Binay scenario has upset their applecart. At the same time, the reality that Jojo Binay may soon be the next vice-president does not make him and Noynoy total strangers as they are not by any stretch of the imagination. Jojo Binay has been a personal and political presence in the Cory Aquino family for more years than Mar Roxas has been. Their belonging to different political parties is a fact that should have little bearing between long-time friends, but will be an initial hump in an unexpected partnership.

I remember when I first wrote in August of 2009 about how destiny seemed to have played a major and dramatic role in Noynoy's life and

that of the Filipino people. Like Billy Esposo and Conrad de Quiros who had already and boldly written about how Noynoy should run for the presidency despite his having had no interest and preparation to do so, I wanted to express the same view. However, I pulled back a little because the future, at that time, looked very dark and ominous. I believed that Ninoy and Cory Aquino had done so much for our motherland that their children deserved a more peaceful and quiet life. But the color of destiny kept getting more clear by the day that I quickly joined others in clamoring for Noynoy to run.

It has been a long and bruising campaign, a very dirty one, in fact. To the end, though, there had been the least of violence, and that in itself has been a special blessing. While the color orange tried its best from two parties to become overtake the yellow fever, it was yellow all the way.

Which now brings me to another moment where I ponder about destiny and whether the orchestrator of Noynoy's destiny is also moving to attach Jojo Binay with it. The seeming impossibility of a Binay victory has triggered all sorts of speculations as to its explanation. And it has caused allegedly well-bred people to cross lines of decency and engage in gutter behavior in blaming others for what cannot be but a serious error of the core of Mar Roxas's campaign. For a candidate to lose a lead of over 30% in three months without realizing it until the last moment is a classic case of political ineptness. The inept, therefore, have to point the blame on others, a usual human tendency.

The Philippines has chosen democracy to be its political path. However, some in the elite cling to a past that has been generous to them but very unfair to the majority. The elitism has not been relegated to land ownership but to political dominance as well. The Aquino and Roxas families are ilustrados in Philippine political history, Binays are not. That is the strange fit, an ilustrado Aquino and a masa Binay, and some vested interests will try to make political intrigue from it. Yet, destiny is offering a bright window of opportunity for a convergence that has long been delayed, the closing of the awful gap between rich and poor.

Both Noynoy Aquino and Jojo Binay must learn to rise above their partisan boxes and honor a people's will. If they cannot, then they betray the spirit of change which catapulted them to what seemed impossible just months ago. Noynoy Aquino and Jojo Binay must prepare to sit as President and Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines, not as heads of two political parties. That is what they have been telling the Filipino people as they asked for the people's votes and support, that they want to be the two highest leaders of the nation, not of their respective political parties. Life is kind to the two of them, that they have more than two decades of personal amity. Only the most narrow of interest will keep one or both of them from giving their relationship less than totally supportive.

The lessons to be learned from Edsa One, the unfinished revolution, are many. One among the first is the working and personal relationship between the President and the Vice-President. Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel never hit it off, and their differences denied the country of a more effective governance. Another opportunity is being given by destiny to two friends to learn the unlearned and lift a whole people through a harmonious alliance.

The Cory Aquino presidency was perennially harassed by rebellious elements in the military. Because of determined destabilization attempts, her

administration could not convert enthusiasm for change after a dictatorship. Noynoy can use all the help from a political veteran to extract more cooperation from the various political forces that will be trying to destroy his administration.

In my last article, I shared my view that we are at the edge of a historical replay. But if we are to witness our people and nation break a destructive cycle and use the lessons of history, the future can be full of hope.

There is a smell of fresh flowers after a very dark night. The sun has not yet risen, but there is a luminous sheen that is preparing to welcome it. We have a mountain to climb and we are eager to begin the journey.



Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

Noynoy leads an election

The recent election in the Philippines turned out to be a triumph of the forces of hope rather than the preponderance of the voices of doom. Not that there are not enough reasons to remain belligerent over the whole process of conducting fair elections in one of the oldest claimants to being a democratic country in Asia, but the rapidity by which results are being reported in this last exercise seems to have removed any suggestion that like the alleged performance of the last, this one too can be rigged.

The Philippines practices a form of representative democracy. The fact that it elects an executive officer directly rather than by a representative few makes the system closer to the open democratic tradition of Athens rather than the defensive republicanism of Sparta. The fact that it chooses from a few families reveals its limitation.

Add to that the lightheadedness of an electorate swayed easily by the popularity of popular symbols, justified by the perceived successes of Ron (Reagan) and Ah'nold (Schwarzenegger), the election process is a lively one, albeit susceptible to violence from loose firearms and the revolt of varied partisan interests in the countryside.

Unlike its neighbors where the traditions of royalty and autocracy are deeply ingrained, the country went through both the colonial rule of Europe of the Medieval Age from its religious clusters and monastic convents to reforming Cortez, which formed a genteel and enlightened nationalistic intelligentsia, and the rapid modernization of the westward-bound plainmen of America with its Springfield rifles, public education, and klieg lights, which left behind the practices of a rambunctious free press and image manipulators.

The country has been ruled by its landed gentry whose family names marked the halls of the 1935 Commonwealth Legislature and lingers with members of its current Congress (*Batasang Pambansa*). Ascension to the halls of power combines maintaining one's family heirloom and continuing the American Lincolnesque myth that anyone can be elected into public office in the brown "home of the brave and land of the free."

Ironically, the elected Marcoses and Makapagals from plebian roots turned patrician, the impression of dynastic line bears their names more than that of its aristocracy. Ditto for Noynoy Aquino whose election is in large measure aided by his illustrious and martyred father, Ninoy, and a self-effacing yet endeared presidential mother Cory.

But more remarkable is a country that feels comfortable in calling its heroes by their nicknames, whose brains and brawns (1 for every 10) have migrated elsewhere, and whose remittances constitutes a fourth of its national budget. This highly personal experiment in executive prowess and deliberative assembly in our neighborhood is not only worth watching, it might be inevitable that we relate to it; not only because of proximity and that a number of its descendants are now part of our family in the CNMI, it might also just mirror on a larger scale what we look like.

To the Pinoy elected officials, from your Primos of Chamolinia, *Mabuhay!*

Letters to the Editor

Why foreign workers in the CNMI want improved status

First, we want security in our immigration status, not fear of being illegal aliens. Obviously, we are facing a lot of difficulties due to the worldwide economic downturn. We will be facing the same uncertainties after the transition period ends set by PL 110-229 come November 2011 if actions by the U.S. Congress are delayed for a reason. We are facing uncertainties even if we belong to the long-term foreign nationals who may or may not qualify for H-visas and or CW status. Granting improved status is one best solution that will protect us foreign nationals.

Second, so that foreign nationals can plan ahead for the future of our family without fear of leaving the island we called home for a decade because of unsecured immigration status. Foreign nationals are not just here to work and compete with the local workforce in terms of employment. Some of them, if not all, are entrepreneurs in their own fields of expertise who can run small businesses that will help boost the economy, collect more taxes, and will create employment.

Third, foreign workers are vulnerable to abuses and discrimination. We exhausted much of our talent and skills, spent half of our life here only to find out that we are the second choice in the employment status under the U.S. and local laws of the Department of Labor of the CNMI. Lucky are those foreign nationals who had extraordinary talents and skills that are not available to the U.S. citizen workforce.

Foreign workers are not a threat to the local workforce because, given the chance for an improved status, we can even share our talents and skills in our field of expertise to our local brothers and sisters because we now belong to one community, one people, and one nationality. We've learned to adapt to the local culture, some foreign nationals have established their own families and given birth to U.S. citizen children and those children call this beautiful island their home. Sending their parents back home due to unsecured

immigration status is the worst and most difficult thing to do, especially to those foreign workers who by others means have special ties with the local people. Why is it that they don't want us to leave and gave us unique status before Nov. 28, 2009? Maybe because foreign workers' professionalism as guest workers are of great importance in the islands. This notion was proven true when we were granted umbrella permits.

Carl James Alvarez M., a 10-year-old 5th grader of Tanapag Elementary School says: "I am asking the U.S. Congress to give my parents improved status because I want them to stay on Saipan while taking care of myself and my little brother and I want my mom to get the job she needs so if she has money she can buy us plenty of toys. If I become a U.S. Air Force engineer someday or a professional soccer player of any United States team, and if I am earning money I will support my Mom and Dad, and then I will ask them where they want to stay and live. But for now I want their passport changed just like my passport because I want to stay here and because this place is peaceful and hardly has incidents, unlike in the Philippines where there is plenty of incidents in the news, plenty of guns and goons."

Young children can speak up, why shouldn't we? To all foreign workers, beginning May 10, 2010 onward, let us pray, hope and work for the best because together we will succeed. The United Group Leaders is advocating for the immediate passage of the Department of the Interior's recommendations before the transition period ends on Nov. 27, 2011, the end of the umbrella permits' effectivity, unless Homeland Security unveils their new rule for us. We are counting on everyone to participate in our advocacy. On May 16, 2010, one voice, one movement and one action.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Bandila thanks supporters

To all those who in one way or the other have helped Bandila in promoting its advocacies and signified their desire to join the partylist and help in their future implementation, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks. Whatever is the outcome of this election, rest assured that Bandila shall continue its work along health, education/environment, livelihood program/labors' welfare especially the expats and OFWs, public accountability, youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities and

sports excellence.

There shall be renewed and vigorous efforts to pressure the Department of Foreign Affairs agencies and Consulates to do their sworn duties to Filipino nationals/citizens. Bandila pledges that it shall never waver in these endeavors."

Bishop Nilo S. Tayag
Bandila Partylist

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



MANUAL COUNTING

Volunteers assist Philippine Consulate General staff in preparing the documents before the start of the manual counting of the Filipino overseas absentee ballots on Monday early morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



The manual counting of ballots begins past 12am Monday at the Filipino Workers Resource Center of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. Volunteers and Consulate staff put up seven tables where they simultaneously held the counting.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



MOCK TRIAL

The Mt. Carmel High School team, representing the Northern Mariana Islands, competed at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Philadelphia from May 5th to 9th. Congressman Gregorio Killili Camacho Sablan drove up from Washington for a round of the competition and to present the team with his statement of congratulations from the Congressional Record.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 4th birthday to Ranasia Bocago! Enjoy your day baby girl and we love you so much. May you have many more birthdays to come. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Liyah, Vinae, Gianna, Jun Jun, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 52nd birthday to our loving and precious mother and the greatest grandma ever, Rose, for all the caring and loving that you have given us. More love to you mom, God bless and more years to come. We love you! Greetings coming out from your kids and your 19 beautiful grand kids!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GUN SALUTE

Department of Public Safety's Tactical Response Enforcement Team members prepare their firearms for the 21-gun salute during Wednesday's National Peace Officer Memorial Day ceremony at DPS.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In Celebration of his New Life

†JESUS ATALIG MANGLONA

August 23, 1933 – May 11, 2010

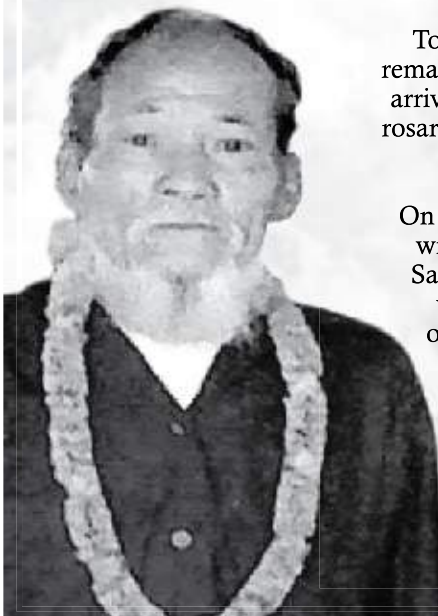
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE : **Amanda Barcinas Manglona**

CHILDREN: **Angel B. Manglona**
Jesse B. Manglona & Jessica Taman (*Kenneth, Keomi, Jezinnie, Kobby, Kali, Jessie Jr., Tiffany*)
Francis B. Manglona & Shirley Hocog
Therese B. Manglona

In his new life, he now joins his:

FATHER: †Angel M. Manglona
MOTHER: †Adela L. Manglona
BROTHER/SISTERS & IN-LAWS:
‡Maria M. Mafnas & ‡Francisco M. Mafnas
‡Ana M. Norita & ‡Juan Norita
‡Moises L. Manglona & ‡Apollonia L. Manglona



Today, Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 10:05am, his remains will be flown from Saipan to Rota. Upon his arrival, he will be taken to Rota Health Center for a rosary. Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at 7:00pm at San Isidro Church, Rota.

On Wednesday, May 19, 2010, our beloved †Jesus will be transported from Rota Health Center to San Isidro Church at 4:15am. Responso Service will be at 4:30am followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 6:00am. Interment services will follow immediately at San Jose Cemetery, Rota.

Please join us in prayers.

Amanda Barcinas Manglona
Children & Families

Young Style

For more children, dinner is coming from Uncle Sam

By LISA RATHKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP)—While the other preschoolers were warming up to the vegetable pesto lasagna, 3-year-old Avery Bennett dived in with no hesitation.

"Can I have some more lasagna?" Bennett said from her booster seat. "I love it."

She moved on to her seconds, and the other kids at the evening care program in Brattleboro were also chomping down the dish made of spinach, peppers, carrots, tomato, fresh basil and cheese.

More low-income school kids could soon have access to free nutritious dinners like the lasagna that Avery loved. A U.S. Department of Agriculture program in Vermont, 12 other states and the District of Columbia provides reimbursements for the suppers, served at after-school programs for at-risk kids in communities where at least 50 percent of households fall below the poverty level.

"What it allows us to do is provide those kids with an extra nutritious meal before they go home because some kids go home to nothing," said Susan Eckes, director of child nutrition programs for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada in McCarran, Nev.

Around the country, about 49,000 children benefit from the after-school meals each day. The program is expected to cost a total of \$8 million from 2009 to 2013, the USDA said.

With more families losing jobs and homes, the need is growing, officials said.

The number of Americans who live in food-insecure households—which at times don't have enough nutritious food—rose from 36 million people in 2007 to 49 million in 2008, according to the most recent report from USDA's Economic Research Service.

Among those, 16.7 million were children, up from 12.4 million in 2007.

Nearly one in four children in the U.S. are food insecure and about one in five live in poverty, according to a report from Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks around the country.

"As the economy gets worse, we're seeing more and more kids," said Beth Baldwin-Page, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro.

In East Prairie, Mo., kids who may have skipped the meal from time to time are coming every day, said Lester Gillespie, youth program director at the Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center, which serves 150 meals a day at two sites to kids age 5 to 18.

A lack of nutritious food, especially in the first three to five years, can have lasting effects on the health and development of children. Filling their stomachs with nutritional meals helps them learn and concentrate, officials have said.

"What we've noticed is that when kids are eating nutritional meals, they tend not to get involved in negative activities such as doing graffiti or committing delinquent acts because when their stomach is full they make good decisions," said Gillespie.

Programs in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the District of Columbia and now in Vermont are eligible for reimbursement for suppers.

The USDA requires the sites to offer nutritionally balanced suppers with milk, a protein, fruit, vegetables and



From left, Nick Widomski, Wyatt Kail, Jesse Kail and Matt Frye line up for pizza at the after-school supper program at the Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club in Brattleboro, Vt. Thursday April 15, 2010. The



Keith Fox, 15, and Stacy Blackadai, 15, both of Brattleboro, Vt., prepare pizza for the after-school supper at the Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club Thursday April 15, 2010.



Anne-Marie Bliss, Jake Bursky, Rose Plante and Bernie Parent talk while eating pizza at the Brattleboro Boys and Girls Club during their after-school supper Thursday April 15, 2010.

bread or a grain item.

Delaware, where the supper program is one of the fastest-growing child nutrition programs in the state, has gone a step further, prohibiting the use of any grain product that contains more than 6 grams of sugar or any product where more than 35 percent of calories are derived from fat.

The Brattleboro Boys & Girls Club started offering dinners on its own two and a half years ago. When it learned the supper program was being expanded to Vermont, it applied for and just starting getting the federal reimbursement of \$2.68 per meal.

Three days a week, the club offers dinners feeding 40 to 60 kids on a Thursday night to up to 100 on Friday.

"It's popular. Unfortunately, it's necessary," said Ricky Davidson, unit director.

"We see families getting evicted left and right. They don't have a place to live, let alone cook food," Baldwin-Page said.

Bernie Parent, 18, of Brattleboro has relied on the meals since he and his mother became homeless last year.

Now living on his own in an apartment, going to high school, and working at the Boys & Girls Club, he still relies on the three free dinners each week.

"It helps out a lot," he said.

Rachael Ray lobbies for good food on Capitol Hill

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Celebrity chef Rachael Ray says she has a big mouth. And she used it Tuesday to ask lawmakers for more money to improve school lunches.

Ray's whirlwind one-day tour included a visit to a Washington elementary school where she talked to kids about how they can make better food choices and meetings with several members of Congress. She is also visiting the White House to take a peek at first lady Michelle Obama's kitchen garden.

"It's nice to see that everyone can have a voice here," Ray said between meetings. "It's a little Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

The legislation that Ray is pushing would direct the Agriculture Department to create new standards for all foods in schools, including vending machine items, to give students healthier meal options. The legislation would spend \$4.5 billion over 10 years on nutrition programs—less than half of what President Barack Obama recommended in his budget.

Ray said she is asking lawmakers to find more money for the bill to help deal with health costs caused by obesity.

"Find the money now and get it done or you are going to be part of sinking our ship down the line," Ray said she told members of Congress.

The famous author and talk show host is only one of many celebrity chefs who are urging Washington to focus more on improving childhood nutrition. California chef Alice Waters has long urged lawmakers to encourage better eating and British chef Jamie Oliver recently campaigned for the same in his network television show "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution."

Ray toured the elementary school with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat who is on the Senate Agriculture Committee and has also pushed for more money for the bill. She said Ray can help bring awareness to the effort because of her popularity and expertise in cooking healthy, nutritious meals.

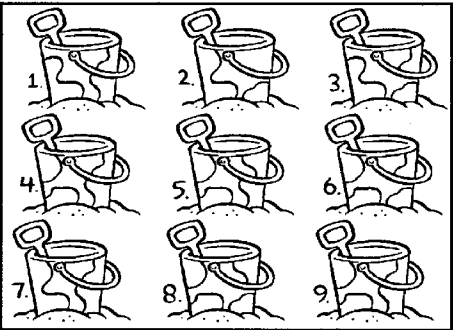
"She's someone who people can understand and follow," Gillibrand said.

Ray, who has started a charity called Yum-o! to raise money to teach kids healthy eating, said she might not be done with lobbying. At least one member asked her to come back.

"Talk loud and hard and until they shut you up," she said.




Television personality Rachael Ray, center, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., visit 3rd graders at Payne Elementary School to promote healthy eating, and will lobby for more child nutrition funding to combat childhood obesity on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 in Washington.



TRY "DIGGING" UP the answer to this one in 30 seconds. Can you spot the two pails and shovels that look exactly alike?

Answer: Numbers 4 and 9 are the ones.



Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FISHY PROBLEM!

D	M	N	B	S	F	K	L	E	R	E	K	C	I	P
A	U	O	A	Q	N	L	C	K	B	W	A	R	O	
E	L	E	S	E	I	A	O	R	I	J	T	E	T	
H	L	G	S	G	K	F	P	U	D	A	P	F	P	I
L	E	R	E	K	C	A	M	P	N	D	H	I	I	N
L	T	U	B	I	L	A	H	A	E	D	A	S	R	O
U	L	T	U	N	A	G	N	I	R	R	E	H	T	B
B	J	S	A	R	D	I	N	E	G	M	Y	R	S	M

Hidden in the above diagram are the names of 20 freshwater and saltwater fish. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the fish that you are trying to catch.

Bass	Hake	Sardine
Bluegill	Halibut	Shark
Bonito	Herring	Snapper
Bullhead	Mackerel	Striper
Catfish	Mullet	Sturgeon
Flounder	Pickering	Tuna
Haddock	Pike	

PROFESSOR FLUNKUM IS IN A "VOWEL" MOOD!
One of his students claimed that he had found four words in the dictionary that didn't contain a single vowel, and he challenged the professor to find them. Can you help him?

Answer: We found tsq, shh, h'm and mth. Did you find any others?

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Baby, babe, band, bone, bond, bold, bolt.

Help kitty think inside the box

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Regarding the letter from a reader (Frustrated in Philadelphia) whose cat was soiling on top of her bed: I didn't get the impression that the person was keeping the cat in a cage as a matter of course, but rather was doing that, or considering doing it, as a result of the kitty relieving herself on the bed.

Therefore, I wonder if the kitty wasn't doing that because of a urinary tract infection or other health problem, or didn't like the type of cat litter used, the location of the litter box or something else in the home that was probably stressing her.

Just wanted to bring up these possibilities, for what it's worth.—Jonathan N., Mayer, Ariz.

DEAR JONATHAN: My thanks—advice and suggestions from my readers is always welcome and worthwhile! Frustrated in Philadelphia should certainly discuss the possibility of a health issue, like a urinary tract infection, with her cat's veterinarian, and bring her in for a complete checkup.

Litter-box location can be an issue with some cats, as can multiple cats sharing a litter box. An owner dealing with a cat "going" in areas other than



the litter box could try placing a clean litter box over the area of the latest mess (after cleaning it up of course) and then gradually move it away and back to a more desirable location.

Cats also react to stresses we humans might not notice or see as a stressful situation. Pay close attention to a cat's behavior, particularly when it's exhibiting problem behaviors like soiling outside the litter box, and see if it is reacting to a person, a new item in the home or something else.

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli who made the following observation: "My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me."

■ Hunters, take note: The largest deer that ever lived was the Irish elk, which became extinct more than 7,000 years ago. Though it stood a remarkable 7 feet tall at the shoulders, the creature's most amazing characteristic was its antlers, which could stretch 12 feet from tip to tip and weigh up to 90 pounds. Imagine that rack hanging on your living-room wall!

■ If you are a parent, you probably won't be surprised to learn that among the under-18 crowd, strawberries are the favorite fruit, followed closely by grapes and bananas.

■ Google Earth, the virtual geographic information program, isn't just a fun thing to fiddle with on your computer; it can be a law-enforcement tool, too. Just last year, police in Switzerland noticed a cornfield that looked a bit odd; it turns out that the farmer was raising marijuana and had hidden the two-acre plot within his corn fields.

■ The koala bear, that cute and cuddly icon of Down Under, never drinks water. The critters get all the water they need from the food they eat.

■ Medical experts say that coconut water has the same pH and electrolyte balance as human blood. In fact, during World War II, doctors who were running low on supplies used coconut water in plasma transfusions.

■ In 2002, in an effort to be more environmentally friendly, Ireland decided to try to reduce the use of plastic grocery bags by levying a 15-cent tax on each one. It worked, too—use of the bags dropped by 95 percent.

Thought for the Day: "Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet."—Roger Miller

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BURIED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

MAGIC MAZE

R F D A X V S T Q O A M J H F
C A T E N N Y S O N Y N W U R
P C N L E J G H N F S I D B Z
X V H K T N R E N O T W E N Q
O M C A I G N I N W O R B O R
N I A L R E B M A H C A K L E
D I P H V L F D B Z S D Y I C
W I V I H T E B A Z I L E V U
K T L R Q O N S L K I H F I A
D L C A Z X W I I V Y R N E H
E V I I D R A H C I R U S R C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Anne Neville	Chaucer	Henry VI	Olivier
Browning	Darwin	Henry VIII	Richard II
Chamberlain	Dickens	Kipling	Tennyson
Charles II	Elizabeth I	Newton	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	X		+		9
+		-		X	
	÷		+		5
÷		X		-	
	X		-		10
3		9		4	

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

by Linda Thistle

GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	6	8
10	8	6
-	X	÷
9	7	9
X	-	+
6	8	9

Make an artwork carryall tote

When your kids start cleaning out their classroom desks and bins as the school year draws to a close, ensure that their original art and creative keepsakes arrive home in good condition with a nifty waterproof carryall made from two plastic soda bottles and cording. Your young kids can make it at home and carry it to school over their shoulders along with their regular backpacks. The good news for any doting parents is that their special papers and masterpieces won't get stuck in backpack zippers or get crumpled in side pockets when carefully tucked into this see-through torpedo-shaped cylinder.

Here's how: Wash and remove the labels from two 2-liter plastic soda bottles. Leave lids screwed on at both ends. Cut off the base of each bottle with scissors. Trim any rough edges. On one bottle, make a 2-inch slit at the cut end, perpendicular to the bottom edge. Ease the open end of the bottle with the slit into the open end of the other bottle so that the two bottles fit snugly together to form a torpedolike container for rolled-up artwork.

Keep lids screwed on permanently at opposite ends. Tie a colorful shoelace or cording around the neck of the one

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

bottle, then tie the opposite end around the neck of the other bottle to make a strap. Sling over your child's shoulder and adjust to fit comfortably. Decorate the carryall with stickers, if you wish. To use, separate the two bottles, loosely roll up drawings, set inside and put bottle back together again.

Extra idea: Empty gift-wrap, paper-towel or mailing tubes are also good totes for rolled-up art. Use them for sending art to grandparents, or label each tube with your child's name, year and grade for art you store.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Distributed by King Features Synd.



Life & Style

Our actual and mythical *Journey to the East* (directionally, to the West from Saipan) has come to an end here in the industrial Northeast of *Dong Bei*, in the Manchurian plains, the crossroad of northeast Asia that saw the footprints of the Hans, the Mongols and the Manchus, as well as the *Chosun Saram* (Koreans), the *Nippon-koku* of the "Land of the Rising Sun," and East Slavic *Russkiye*.

Known as the rust belt of China, it does live up to its reputation. For the 10 days I spent in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, there was only one day when the sky appeared blue. Otherwise, the haze in the city stayed bleak, and did not come close to being the romantic Myst of Guangxi by the karsts formations of Guilin-Lijiang-Yangshuo.

But if the weather was somber, Shenyang City and its people were not. Billeted in the Zhong Jie district, which is where the old *Kugong* (Ming Dynasty Palace that is second only to the Forbidden City in Beijing in size and treasures, as well as former government administration center), our tall building is in a cluster of skyscrapers that includes Joy City in the Love Park where a big steel structure sticking out of what would be flower beds spells "I LOVE YOU" in bold capital letters. Thinking it was a leftover from Valentine's Day, it turned out to be part of the park's theme, and fitted as a favorite photo op backdrop for shoppers, especially on Mother's Day.

Though the surrounding commercial centers are hampered by the ongoing construction of the Shenyang Metro, it has not deterred the pedestrian shopping traffic under and above ground. The picture of the old puritan Red Guards has since been replaced by fashionable China abetted by Maybelline and Lancôme, Amway and Mary Kay, and with the female of the population being outnumbered by the male 54 to 46 (male being the obstetrics of choice for the one-child family, with the female either aborted or fanned out to childless relations), the female of the specie is finding considerable power to choose partners in the current excess of male among the populace.

This week, I saw tight culottes and hot pants come alive with the rising of the temperature and the flowering of all kinds of trees along the streets and in the parks, while the current rage of pantless attire seem to have caught the office professionals by the thigh. This after attempts in the business community to encourage its female executives to dress up like their male counterparts with dark suit and tie, reminiscent of Fifth Av-



Jaime Vergara hams it up with his Marianas Trench t-shirt before the gleaming steel structures that spell "I LOVE YOU" at the Love Park in Zhong Jie's commercial district of Shenyang, as (inset) costumed Dong Bei dancers perform near the Ming Emperors' statues in this City of the Manchus called Mukden by the Russians.

JAIME VERGARA

CHINA TRAILS 8:

Liu Lian in Ding Dong Bei

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

enue in the '80s.

At *Tai Yuan Jie* district, the new commercial center of town where the Great Helmsman points west to Beijing rather than north to the Manchus, socialist economics has taken the same coloration as Wall Street, and the Armani suits are just as

stylish and expensive as they are in Milan.

We dropped in at Liaoning University to follow up a lead in their English language department. Cheng Wei, a graduate of Russia's higher education and professor of Economics (no relation to Christian Wei

of Saipan's Eucon, I am pretty sure), is president of Liaoning University, which used to be the College of Russian Studies, now one of its consolidated colleges in the institution.

I was at the House of Foreign Friends trying to locate an English speaker when I ran into two

Caucasian ladies, and bouncing into their presence with glee at having located folks who I presumed spoke English, they turned out to be Russians, and not the friendly types either. In Guilin, a Chinese administrator informed me that they were looking for native Eng-

lish speakers. The flabbergasted British faculty head who talked to me earlier interjected with, *He is a native speaker!* It appeared that the color of my skin was the determining factor in gauging my ability to speak English! At Liaoning University, it would be an African student from Sudan who acted as my English guide.

I had mentioned in a previous article that China's cities hold a commonality of street names, using provinces, mountains, rivers and popular locations across the country to identify roads. Another way the country seems to hold itself together as a unit is the way it spreads out its fresh produce. It seems to make the effort to distribute what is produced in one location to all the major cities.

Liu Lian is a good example. Known as "durian" in English, the tropical fruit is native to Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia. Fondly called *Liu Lian piao piao* (last two words referring to its smell) by the Chinese, it is now cultivated in Thailand, which exports it also to China, the No. 1 importer of the fruit in the world. Since arriving in Shanghai three weeks ago, where the fruit that "smells like hell, and tastes like heaven" assaulted our nostrils and delighted our palate, we've feasted on the fruit all the way to Guangxi where even the *Yue nan* (Vietnam) variety was sold, to Beijing and then Shenyang.

Like *ginseng* to the Koreans, *durian* in Java is considered an aphrodisiac, with a saying: *durian jatuh sarung naik*, "when the durians fall, the sarongs come up." *Mangosteen* is eaten along with *durian*, which is also in season. The *Yang mei* (red bayberry from the Chinese strawberry tree), Japanese *yamomo*, or mountain peach, is also available, and surprisingly, so are strawberries, bing and red cherries, *laichi*, and mangoes (of varying variety). A visit to the fruit stand of the public markets and the sidewalk vendors, or the fruit sections of big supermarkets like Walmart, Gome, Watsons, and Carre Four, empties the coin purse quickly with their abundant supply of fruits.

This journey has been a moveable feast of sights and sounds, smells and tastes, that has enriched the inner sanctum of one's spirit, having forgotten that prior to the spiritual exercises of the mind came first the physiology of the flesh, and in its balances and harmonies lie the stillness of one's soul. No wonder that West Africans delight in their soul food, and the Chinese do not embark on anything serious together until they have first shared their *chow mein* (noodles) and their *jiaozi* (dumplings), preferably with either *pi ju* or *bai ju* (beer or wine) together.

We return empty handed on the employment front, but the journey had made the initial destination superfluous.

'Annie' comic strip ending after 85 years

CHICAGO (AP)—Come this summer there will be no more tomorrows for "Annie."

After 85 years, Tribune Media Services announced Thursday that it will cease syndication of the comic strip featuring the iconic redheaded orphan on Sunday, June 13. Instead, the company will bring Annie into the Internet age by pursuing new audiences for her in digital media and entertainment, like mobile readers and graphic novels.

"I'm going to miss the girl a lot," Jay Maeder, the strip's writer, said Thursday. "I wrote her for 10 years. She was a fairly large part of my everyday life."

"Little Orphan Annie" made its newspaper debut on August 5, 1924, first written and illustrated by creator Harold Gray. The strip later was renamed simply "Annie," telling tales of the spunky orphan adopted by Daddy Warbucks and joined by

her lovable dog, Sandy.

Annie was famous for wearing a red dress with white collar and cuffs. Over the decades she became the center of the 1930s radio program "Adventure Time with Orphan Annie," a 1977 Broadway musical and several movies.

"It is no longer a great marketplace for adventure comic strips in the daily newspapers," said Maeder, of Houston. "It's not surprising to me that at some point the strip would come to an end."

Less than 20 newspapers in the United States currently take the comic strip, and Tribune Media Services vice president of licensing Steve Tippie said the cost of creating the strip started to outweigh its revenue. Tippie said the company is considering future live-action and animated television and film projects for the character.

"Our emphasis going forward

will be on bringing her more in line with current pop culture and shaping her development as a property that appeals to children and adults on a whole new level," Tippie said.

Fans of the strip will be interested to know it promises to end with many unanswered questions. Tribune Media Services says the strip's last panel is a cliffhanger, showing Annie caught in a tangle with the Butcher from the Balkans. Daddy Warbucks is left to mourn her loss.

Unlike the Annie of stage and screen, Maeder said Gray started "Little Orphan Annie" the comic strip with dark and political themes. Maeder said he attempted to stay faithful to that legacy, for example pursuing story lines about terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks.

According to Tribune Media Services, Gray used the comic strip to express his

conservative philosophies and pro-capitalism views.

The first strip of "Little Orphan Annie" from 1924 shows the heroine kneeling at her orphanage bed, praying for a family and scrubbing the floor while saying, "Gee, I wish some nice folks would adopt me—then I could have a real papa and mama like other kids."

"Annie" illustrator Ted Slampyak of Bernalillo, N.M., said the character received a modern makeover about 10 years ago, leaving her signature red dress behind for jeans and a new hairdo that kept her looking like a "girl of today."

"Annie is the symbol of looking on the bright side when everything looks bad," Slampyak said. "She's the symbol of picking yourself up, dusting yourself off and getting back into the fight. That kind of character will always resonate with people."

LaBeouf promises better 'Transformers' next time

CANNES, France (AP)—Shia LaBeouf says the second "Transformers" movie got too big for its own good—but the third one brings the heart back to the franchise.

LaBeouf, who starts work on the next "Transformers" sequel Tuesday, said the third installment will be the best one yet. The new script restores a human element that got lost in the second movie, LaBeouf said.

"When I saw the second movie, I wasn't impressed with what we did," LaBeouf said in an interview Thursday at the Cannes Film Festival, where his finance drama "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" is premiering. "There were some really wild stunts in it, but the heart was gone."

"Transformers: Revenge of



Actor Shia LaBeouf poses for a portrait, while promoting "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps", at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Thursday, May 13, 2010.

AP

the Fallen" was a runaway commercial success but was drubbed by critics.

Michael Bay returns for the third time as director of

the science-fiction franchise, which centers on dueling races of giant robots that bring their war to Earth. The next movie will have what the last one

lacked—a sense of human consequences, LaBeouf said.

On the second movie, "we got lost. We tried to get bigger. It's what happens to sequels. It's like, how do you top the first one? You've got to go bigger," LaBeouf said. "Mike went so big that it became too big, and I think you lost the anchor of the movie. ... You lost a bit of the relationships. Unless you have those relationships, then the movie doesn't matter. Then it's just a bunch of robots fighting each other."

With "Transformers 3," the toll of the robot war will be grave for our planet, LaBeouf said.

"There's going to be a lot of death, human death. This time, they're targeting humans," LaBeouf said. "It's going to be the craziest action movie ever made, or we failed."

Troubled teen wants escape from unhappy life at home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and have been home-schooled for a few years, but I hate it.

My parents recently got a divorce after many years of trying to. Although I was used to the idea of their divorce, I cried when it happened. Mom asked me what was wrong and I told her. Her reply was, "Oh, grow up. You're 13, not 5!" It showed me she doesn't care about my feelings.

I don't know why, but sometimes I think I'm the reason behind my parents' split. Also, I have no idea how to tell Mom I want to go to high school next year. I feel like my life is falling apart. What do I do?

TENNESSEE TEEN IN TURMOIL



Dear Abby

DEAR TENNESSEE TEEN: Regardless of how old a person is, when parents divorce it can be shocking—even if you saw it coming. It's normal to be sad about it, but don't make your burden harder to bear by feeling in any way guilty about the split.

Children are seldom, if ever, the cause—or even a factor—in a divorce or separation. The circumstances that led your parents to separate are far more complex than they may appear on the surface. Your parents have probably been deeply hurt by each other. Rarely is one party entirely to blame. Do not feel sorry for yourself or ashamed. Divorce happens in the best of families.

Your mother's reaction to your tears was regrettable. It may have been she felt defensive. Divorce can be an emotional roller coaster—so be prepared for her to have mood swings and don't personalize it. (She may be having a bad day.)

As to your attending high school rather than being home-schooled—a way to approach a discussion would be to tell your mother you would like to try it for "a while." She may be more receptive than you think, because she may need to get a job or return to school to prepare for one.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 22-year-old college student. My boyfriend, "Jay," and I have been together four years and plan to become engaged after school. The problem is, I have never told him my mom is a lesbian. She dresses like a man and wears her hair very short. I have always accepted her for who she is—or at least I thought so.

I have told Jay lies about my mom and dad being together when, in fact, they are not. My dad is deceased, and Mom has a girlfriend. I will graduate soon and Jay will be there. So will Mom and her girlfriend.

I feel like I am losing my mind the closer that graduation comes. Jay is a wonderful person, but sometimes he can be judgmental. I have wanted to tell him the truth many times, but I'm afraid of what he will think of me or have second thoughts about our relationship. I can't seem to find the words to tell him even when I try. Please help.

KEEPING A SECRET IN HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

DEAR KEEPING A SECRET: Here are the words: "Jay, there is something I need to tell you—something I haven't been completely honest about." Then tell him everything and do it before graduation, so he will have time to forgive you for not trusting him and being truthful about your background. He will probably be more upset about the deception than any impression your mother could make. If Jay loves you, the two of you will get past this. But if he's not up to it, then your relationship wasn't meant to be, and you'll have to accept it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Okla. boy, 12, an Internet hit with Lady Gaga song

EDMOND, Okla. (AP)—A 12-year-old Oklahoma boy has become an Internet sensation with a video of his performance of the Lady Gaga song "Paparazzi."

Sixth-grader Greyson Chance was recorded singing the song, self-accompanied on the piano, at an April 12 school talent show in Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City.

The video posted on his YouTube site had more than eight million hits by Thursday morning.

The performance also caught the attention of producers of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." He was flown to Los Angeles to perform on the show, and spoke by telephone with Lady Gaga. She told Chance he is sweet and talented and said he should follow his dreams.

The show will air Thursday.

He acknowledged his popularity has increased due to the video and said he's "gotten a couple of (phone) numbers."

Iowa's 'Field of Dreams' site for sale for \$5.4M

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—In "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner's character builds a baseball diamond out of a corn field after a voice tells him: "If you build it, he will come."

Well, now he can buy it and so can anyone else.

Don and Becky Lansing, the owners of the site near Dyersville where the field was built by Universal Studios, said Thursday they're selling the property. The asking price is \$5.4 million.

The couple said they love the land, which has been in Don Lansing's family for more than a century, but they're ready to retire and give up the property.

"It's really time for us to head to the locker room. Maybe that sounds corny. I don't care," Becky Lansing told The Asso-

Anna Nicole Smith's belongings for sale in Vegas

NEW YORK (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith's former boyfriend is unloading 250 personal belongings from her estate at a Las Vegas auction.

The items Larry Birkhead is auctioning include outfits worn by the late model, paintings and a collection of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia.

Birkhead says it cost more than \$100,000 to store Smith's things for three years so it makes sense to get rid of some. Proceeds will go to charity and a trust fund for the daughter Birkhead had with Smith, Danielynn Birkhead.

Helping Birkhead with the auction is former Smith attorney

a two-bedroom house, six out-buildings that include a concession stand, and a 193-acre parcel. The land includes the mystical cornfield where the ghosts of "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, "Moonlight" Graham and others emerge to play ball.

Former major league pitcher Ken Sanders, now a real estate consultant overseeing the sale, said he's already received a number of inquiries about the property.

Sanders said the majority of those who've reached out have shown interest in preserving the property. But he's also heard from people thinking about putting up a hotel, water park and even some contemplating whether to build a minor league ballpark on the site.

and partner Howard K. Stern, the executor of her estate.

Julien's Auctions will run the sale June 26 at Planet Hollywood.

Smith was the 1993 Playboy Playmate of the Year. The Texas native became a clothing model before landing her own reality TV show. She died in 2007.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Cannes directors sign petition supporting Polanski

CANNES, France (AP)—Top directors with films at the Cannes Film Festival have signed a petition in support of director Roman Polanski, who is under house arrest in Switzerland. Signatories of the petition include French New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard, French actor-director Mathieu Amalric and Cannes best director laureate Bertrand Tavernier. The petition is posted on a Web site overseen by French philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy. Polanski is under house arrest in Geneva in a 33-year-old sex case. He pleaded guilty in 1978 to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl. But after a judge said he would renege on the

plea bargain, Polanski fled to his native France. He has been a fugitive since then.

Craigslist launches weekly Web series about users

NEW YORK (AP)—Long a bastion of anonymity, Craigslist is putting a few of its users on camera. The San Francisco-based classified ads site on Thursday launched a weekly Web series that documents people using it. The videos are available on Craigslist and YouTube. They're a kind of marketing tool to showcase the benefits of the site. Users in Los Angeles were given the option of participating in the series, which will present 14 episodes. The videos were created in a reality TV style by "Project Runway" producer

Drew Brown. Episodes include a fashion designer trying to get Sandra Bullock to wear a dress of his and a woman trying to track down a "missed connection"—an alluring stranger.

MTV star writing book on dating

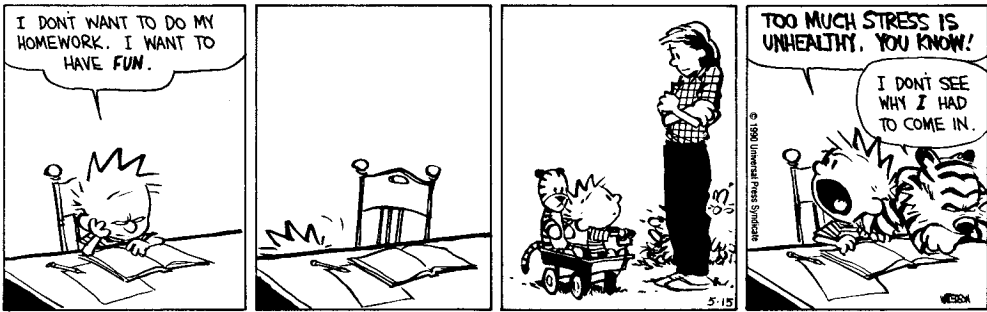
NEW YORK (AP)—Lauren "Lo" Bosworth is getting real about dating. The star of the MTV reality shows "Laguna Beach" and "The Hills" is working on "The Lo-Down," a guide for dating. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers will release it in January. The publisher announced the book Thursday. Simon & Schuster says the 23-year-old Bosworth will tell about her own "trials and tribulations" and those of her friends, too.

Redgrave 'glorying' in her late sister, daughter

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Vanessa Redgrave says she's grieving the deaths of her sister and daughter but also "glorying" in their memory. Redgrave's first public comments since the May 2 cancer death of her sister, Lynn Redgrave, came during a taping of ABC's "The View" that will air Friday. Vanessa Redgrave's eldest daughter, Natasha Richardson, died in March 2009 from head injuries suffered during a skiing accident. The acclaimed acting family also suffered the recent loss of Redgrave's older brother, Corin. During the TV appearance, interview, Redgrave also discusses her husband, Franco Nero, who co-stars in her new film, "Letters to Juliet."

Pastimes

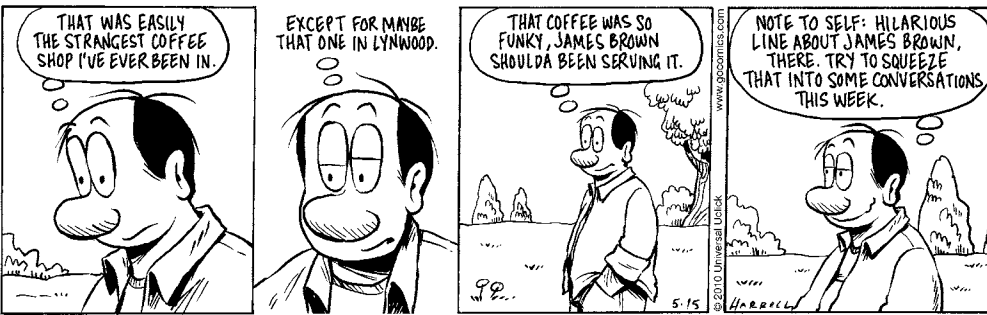
Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



Adam@home



The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 English channel? 4 50 percent 8 First victim 12 Grazing site 13 Culture medium 14 Corduroy ridge 15 Scull tool 16 Assessment 17 Skedad-dle 18 Deeply wounded 21 Micro-brewery product 22 N.J. neighbor 23 Duel tool 26 Deity 27 Suitable 30 Proof-reader's find 31 Muppeteer Henson 32 Bread spread 33 Nevertheless

DOWN

1 United nations 2 Suitor 3 Wagon 4 Author Robbins 5 Marble type 6 Thin wood strip 7 License 8 Horrible 9 Island near Java 10 A util. 11 Welsh vegetable 12 Watched 13 Gaelic 14 Poi base 15 Proof abbr. 16 Unattractive 17 Genealogy chart 18 Session with a shrink 19 Touch 20 Mediocre 21 Physical

23 Pigs' digs

24 Zee

25 Make up your mind

26 Card player's call

27 Foreman fighter

28 Apiece

29 Plaything

31 Righteousness

32 Inauguration

34 Greet the villain

35 False front

36 Lieu

37 Celebrations

38 Get by

39 Unattractive

40 Genealogy chart

41 Session with a shrink

42 Touch

43 Mediocre

44 Physical

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 29; David Krumholtz, 32; David Charvet, 38; Trini Lopez, 73

Happy Birthday: You can make financial gains this year as long as you aren't too aggressive in your pursuits. Keep things simple and attainable. Your steady pace will pay off and bring you the returns you are looking for. A money deal will help to ease your stress and point you in a new direction. Your numbers are 5, 12, 24, 27, 32, 34, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Revisit destinations you haven't journeyed to for a long time or e-mail or phone an old friend. The time is right to reminisce. A gracious and caring approach to those who may be indifferent to you now will ease any prevailing tension. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more adaptable you are, the easier it will be to avoid opposition, complaints and arguments. Focus on having fun and enjoying friends, neighbors and relatives. Don't let a partnership that isn't working get you down. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Being an expert of sorts will get you past some of the people you talk to today. However, expect someone to call your bluff at some point. Putting more time and effort into love and romance will bring better results and ease your stress. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speak openly and honestly about what you want. Emotional setbacks will occur if you don't convey an accurate assessment of your situation. Taking the right action can bring good

results but trying to spare feelings or living a lie will lead to greater heartache. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let your Leo charm lead the way. A humorous look at life will have everyone's attention when you need to make a point or get something done. A challenge will allow you to show your strengths and test your skills. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't jump to conclusions. Hear what everyone has to say. Be observant and refrain from letting your thoughts be known. Although you are tempted to make some changes, do so for the right reasons. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to have some light-hearted fun that will take your mind off the pressure you've been feeling lately. Making some changes at home will also ease your stress and help you generate extra cash. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be enticed by someone's promise of the impossible. Keep a tight lid on your cash, refusing to purchase items you don't need. Love can cost you whether it's spending to impress or spending to get out of a relationship gone sour. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Try not to lead anyone on. You may not want to hurt someone's feelings but, at the same time, be honest, diplomatic and complimentary to ease out of a situation that doesn't do it for you. Be consistent. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen, but proceed with caution. Use your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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past experience as a guide. You should be doing more from home as well as to your home. Talk with someone you trust with knowledge about an interest you have. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Making a residential move or fixing things up at home to better suit your current needs will make you feel better about your surroundings and your future. Love is in the stars and a relationship that means a lot to you will take a positive turn if you share your feelings. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Nip whatever appears to be spinning out of control. Emotional matters will escalate quickly. Don't mix business with pleasure or you will be faced with someone who doesn't approve of your lifestyle. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious, playful, quick and changeable. You are a master at getting others to do things for you. You are a born leader. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
18			19					20		
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36			37				
38	39	40				41		42	43	44
45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2						1	
6			2		9			7
			3		5			
	9	3				4	2	
				9				
	1	5				3	6	
			6		4			
8			9		7			6
	3						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/15
©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	9	1	5	2	3	7	4
1	2	4	7	8	3	9	5	6
7	5	3	9	4	6	2	1	8
3	7	2	6	9	5	4	8	1
6	4	8	2	3	1	5	9	7
9	1	5	4	7	8	6	2	3
4	3	1	5	2	7	8	6	9
5	9	6	8	1	4	7	3	2
2	8	7	3	6	9	1	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/15

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

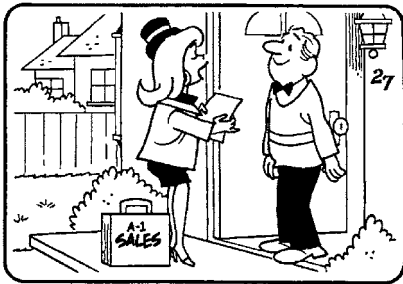
HAVE A NICE WEEKEND! Solution: 7 letters

S H E G N U O L C I F F A R T
P I C N I C E X T E N D E D E
O O G A A H O I T A P T B G R
R S R N E L A E G O S N A E S
T R E C I B P U U A U T C H R
R E P I H R E R O C T R K O A
A K A G T S E C I O E O Y L C
I C I O T I R H C A O B A I E
N A R S W E V O T B D U R D L
A R S A L S V I O A A A D A E
T C T L T O O E T D G N E Y B
U E O I H N W T N C T L D R R
R R S S E R O H C T A U E S A
E I I L O O P A C K T A O B T
V F L A V I T S E F (K) (R) (A) (P) (E)

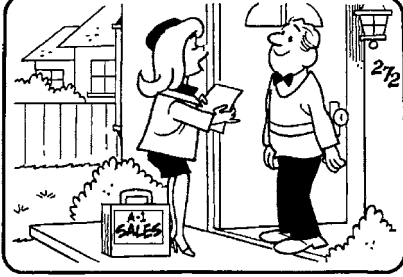
© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 5/15
Activities, Airplane, Backyard, Bands, Barbecue, Beach, Boat, Book, Break, Cars, Celebrate, Chores, Cottage, Event, Extended, Festival, Firecrackers, Fish, Gathering, Guests, Holiday, Lake, Lounge, Nature, Outdoors, Pack, Park, Patio, Picnic, Pool, Porch, Rain, Read, Recreation, Repairs, Roller coaster, Slow, Sport, Tour, Traffic, Visits, Water
Yesterday's Answer: Strategic
Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 plus for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



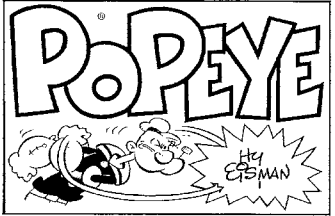
Differences: 1. Hat is different. 2. Man's nose is smaller. 3. House number is different. 4. Earring is gone. 5. Chimney is missing. 6. Briefcase is different.

Wishing Well®

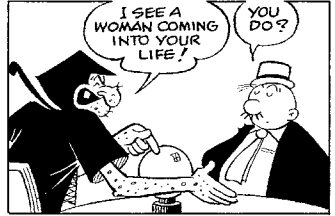
7	2	6	4	8	3	2	5	8	3	2	3	8
F	A	U	Y	S	A	D	Y	E	I	O	D	E
7	6	5	3	6	4	6	8	7	4	2	5	6
O	N	O	I	D	O	A	K	G	U	O	U	U
3	4	7	8	5	6	5	4	7	6	5	7	2
S	B	W	M	A	N	R	E	I	T	E	L	R
4	2	3	5	2	8	4	6	5	6	5	6	3
A	O	R	W	P	O	T	E	O	D	R	E	E
6	8	6	7	2	4	3	6	4	5	6	5	6
F	D	F	L	E	T	C	H	E	O	E	T	R
4	7	2	5	4	6	7	8	2	4	3	7	4
O	C	N	H	D	T	L	E	S	D	I	E	S
8	7	8	5	8	3	8	5	7	8	3	8	3
R	A	A	I	T	V	I	T	R	O	E	N	D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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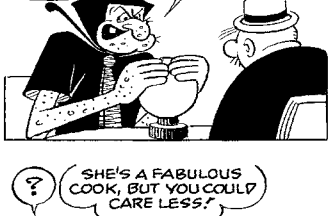
SHE IS DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS AND DESIRES ONLY YOU...



OH-AND HER FATHER OWNS A BURGER FRANCHISE



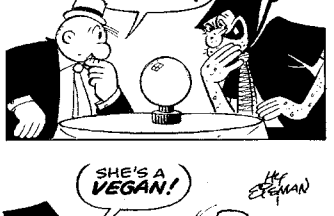
...BUT YOU STILL PAY NO ATTENTION TO HER!



SHE'S A FABULOUS COOK, BUT YOU COULD CARE LESS!



AWA! NOW I SEE THE REASON WHY!



SHE'S A VEGAN!

They'll Do It Every Time

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLD WHEN—



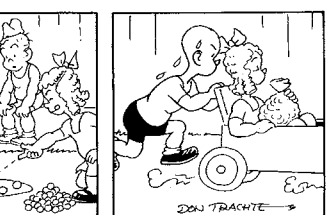
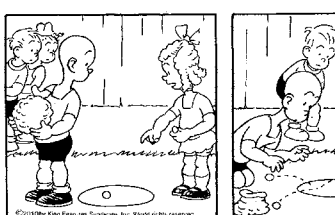
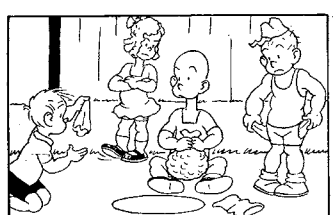
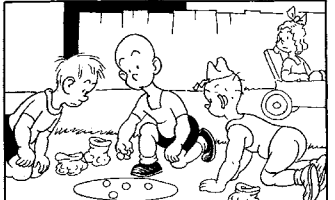
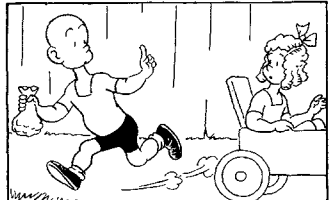
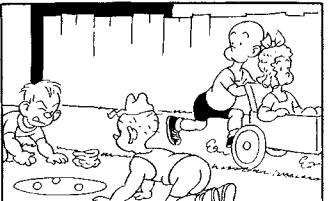
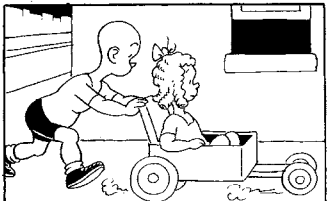
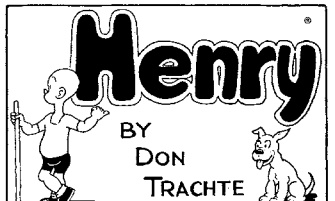
by Al Scaduto

HOMWORK—A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE, THAT IS...



SHOCK WAVES DEPT—

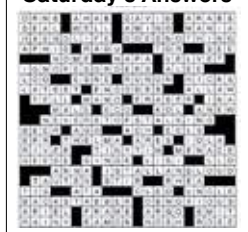
YOU'VE REALLY OUTDONE YOURSELF PREPARING FOR YOUR WEDNESDAY LADIES' AUXILIARY CLUB LUNCHEON—WHEN THE PHONE RINGS AND YOU GET THIS GOOD NEWS...



What was the name of the grocery-store manager who told customers: "Please don't squeeze the Charmin" bathroom tissue?
5. TELEVISION: What the name of Radar O'Reilly's hometown in the TV show "M*A*S*H"?
6. POLITICS: "Wobblies" belong to
10. HESSIANS
9. It doesn't bark
8. Divided into four parts
7. Gaelic cultures
6. Industrial Workers of the World
1. Franklin D. Roosevelt
2. A cook who specializes in preparing cold salads, meat or fish
3. Black Sea
4. George Whipple
5. Ottumwa, Iowa

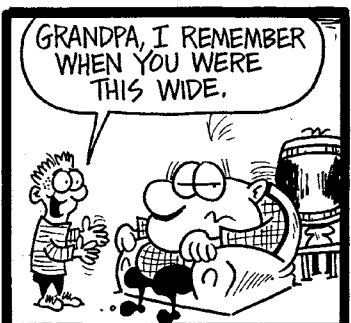
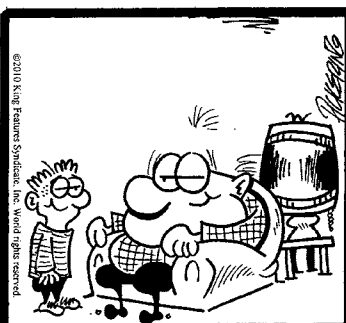
the Basenji dog makes it unique?
10. HISTORY: What was the name of the German mercenaries who fought for the British in the Revolutionary War?

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



Saipan Tribune's Classified Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met.
No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS		
COMMONWEALTH	]	CIVIL
GOVERNMENT	]	ACTION
EMPLOYEES'	]	NO. 05-382
CREDIT UNION,		
Plaintiff,	]	FOURTH
-v-	]	AMENDED
	]	NOTICE
MARIANO S. NAPUTI,	]	OF SALE
Defendant,]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order issued by the Court in this matter on November 13, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly, described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 11, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of May, 2010:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

CITY TRUST BANK,	]	CIVIL
Plaintiff,	]	ACTION
-v-	]	NO. 06-0054
DANIEL JOSEPH M.	]	FOURTH
CABRERA and	]	AMENDED
MAGDALENA S.	]	NOTICE
CABRERA,	]	OF SALE
Defendants.]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 19, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot No. 005 1 180, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 051 02, the original of which was recorded March 11, 1983, as Document No. 16707, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and (b) Tract No. 225840-1-1, located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2119/92, deeded to Daniel Muna Cabrera on August 24, 1998, and recorded as File No. 99-2096 on September 3, 1999.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 11, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of May, 2010:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

CITY TRUST BANK,	}	CIVIL
Plaintiff,	}	ACTION
-v-	}	NO. 07-0021
JOSEPH ALDAN	}	THIRD
ARRIOLA,	}	AMENDED
Defendant.	}	NOTICE
	}	OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meter, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, June 11, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 7th day of May, 2010:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL 

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For \$200.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

WHATZIT Solution:
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Starting as low as... **\$25.00**

Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
Some conditions may apply

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Leaving Island Sale

8:00 am to 12 noon

Whispering Palms

Saturday, May 15, 2010
Assorted household items like clothing, tables, kitchen stuff, lamps and shelves



**We are also selling a
2003 PT Cruiser for \$ 5,000.00
or best offer. Call 989-7827**



Celtics eliminate James and Cavs in 6



BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics sent LeBron James and the Cavaliers back to Cleveland to admire all of their regular-season accomplishments and ponder their future.

It's the Celtics who are still in the chase for an NBA title.

Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and added 12 rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 12 assists to beat Cleveland 94-85 in Game 6 on Thursday night and advance to the Eastern Conference finals. They'll play the Orlando Magic, who are undefeated in the playoffs.

"Winning is gratifying," Garnett said. "You're playing the best team in basketball; the challenge is there; you don't have to dress it up. One thing we don't lack is confidence. We're a veteran team and we understand when it's time to lock in as a group. I think we did just that. I think the experience is taking over."

Despite his sixth career playoff triple-double, James is headed for another early offseason after winning a second MVP award and leading the Cavs to an NBA-best 61 wins and a home-court advantage they never got to use.

"The fact that it's over right now is definitely a surprise to me," James said. "A friend of mine told me, 'I guess you've got to go through a lot of nightmares before you realize your dream.' That's what's going on for me individually right now."

This offseason is destined to define the future of the franchise—and the rest of the NBA, too.

The LeBron watch began at 10:53 p.m., when Rondo dribbled out the last 14 seconds and the Celtics began celebrating their 4-2 victory in the best-of-seven series. James is eligible to opt out of his contract this summer, a move that would make the two-time MVP—and zero-time NBA champion—a free agent and set off a scramble for his services from New York to Miami to Los Angeles and, of course, back in Cleveland.

"I want to win. That's my only thing, my only concern," James said. "I've always prided myself—it's all about winning for me and I think the Cavs are committed to doing that. But at the same time, I've given myself options to this point. Me and my team, we have a game plan that we'll execute and we'll see where we're at."

James scored 27 points with 10 assists, and his 19 rebounds matched a career-high and were the most he's ever had in a playoff game. But he also had nine turnovers, and he may have been hobbled by an elbow injury that limited him to dunks and short jumpers, going 8 for 21 from the floor overall.

"I just told him, 'Keep your head up, man. I've been there,'" said Garnett, who was a star without a title in Minnesota for more than a decade before joining the Celtics and leading them to their NBA-record 17th championship in 2008. "You have a very, very, very bright future. Continue to work and make decisions based on you and your family."

Mo Williams scored 20 of his 22 points in the first half for the Cavaliers.

Boston's Paul Pierce scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half after play-



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) dunks as Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) watches during the second half in Game 6 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

ing just nine minutes—and shooting 1-for-5—in the first with foul trouble. The Celtics had missed their first eight 3-point attempts when Pierce hit a 3 that gave them a 65-58 lead with 4:06 left in the third.

It was 67-61 when Rasheed Wallace hit a 3-pointer, and then Ray Allen stole James' pass and got the ball to Pierce for another 3 that completed a 16-4 run.

James hadn't made an outside shot before hitting back-to-back 3-pointers to cut it to four points, 78-74, early in the fourth quarter and force the Celtics to call a timeout. But Rondo drove for a layup, then set Pierce up for another 3. Pierce found Wallace for a 3-pointer and then Tony Allen's steal led to a Garnett dunk at the other end that sent the Cavaliers into a timeout to regroup, down 88-74 with 5:53 left in their season.

"You knew it was coming at some point with LeBron," said Celtics coach Doc Rivers, who reminded his players that they weren't good enough to take over the game. "That's what

that timeout was about: to remind them that we can't do that, what LeBron was doing."

It was the second straight year Cleveland has finished the regular-season with the No. 1 overall seed, and the second in a row that they have failed to get out of the East. Last year, they lost to Orlando in the conference finals, an exit that left James so shaken he skulked off the court without shaking hands.

This year, he might not stop until he finds himself in a new city.

James seemed like he couldn't wait to slip off his Cavaliers jersey, pulling it off as soon as he reached the tunnel to the locker room. He casually flipped it to an attendant moments after he walked into the dressing room.

Brown said he wasn't ready to think about the future yet.

"Obviously, he's a heck of a talent and a great guy," he said. "But right now we just lost the series. I'm not thinking of that. It wouldn't be fair to everyone in that locker room to think beyond tonight."

LeBron falls short again

BOSTON (AP)—A comeback seemed in LeBron James' grasp, until he fumbled it away.

There will be no title this year in Cleveland.

And James will have to decide if it's time to go look for it elsewhere.

Helped by James' costly turnover early in the fourth quarter, the Boston Celtics pulled away to beat the Cavaliers 94-85 on Thursday night, ending the Eastern Conference semifinal series and starting Cleveland's summer of anxiety.

James still had his sixth postseason triple-double, finishing with 27 points, 19 rebounds and 10 assists. He did all he could for the Cavaliers.

And maybe that's the last he'll ever do for them.

James said a friend told him that you have to go through a lot of nightmares before you accomplish your dreams. The kid from Akron will have to determine if those dreams can ever come in Cavs colors.

"I want to win. That's my only thing, my only concern," James said. "It's all about winning for me and I think the Cavs is committed to doing that, but at the same time I've given myself options to this point."

Battling a sprained right elbow and a former champion that believes it has another title in it, James struggled for most of the last three games. Still, he looked ready to bring the Cavs back in this one, hitting consecutive 3-pointers to cut Boston's lead to four at 78-74 with 9:35 left.

He was dribbling with little pressure on the Cavs' next possession when he suddenly lost the ball. Rajon Rondo grabbed the loose ball and turned it into a layup, igniting a game-breaking 10-0 run that made it 88-74.

All that was left from there were a few more taunts about James' future—specifically, that it might not be in Cleveland.

The Cavaliers knew they were on the clock from the moment James signed his last contract, in July of 2006. Rather than sign for the maximum length of six years, he went for the option to become a free agent this summer.

Boston's Kevin Garnett, who spent many losing years in Minnesota without asking out before finally getting traded to Boston in 2008, seemed to think leaving home might be best for James.

"Loyalty is something that hurts you at times because you can't get youth back," Garnett said, adding that if he'd known how things would be when he got out to Boston, "I'd have done it a little sooner."

Brown's future with the Cavs, too, appears uncertain. After a second straight postseason flameout, there's no guarantee management will bring him back for a sixth season.

Same goes for the hired guns brought in to help James. Shaquille O'Neal finished his first—and maybe last—season with the Cavaliers with 11 points against the Celtics. Antawn Jamison,

Cleveland worked feverishly to build a team that would be too good for James to consider walking away from, but all it's really managed was a great regular-season one that's never really come all that close to a title. The Cavs were easily swept aside in the 2007 NBA finals, lost in the second round twice in the last three years to Boston, and were upset by Orlando in last year's conference finals.

The Cavs can still offer him the comforts of home and around \$30 million more than any team, but several others make enticing pitches comes July 1:

■ The Knicks can afford James and another superstar, and the chance to make basketball matter again at Madison Square Garden.

■ The Heat can pair him with Dwyane Wade with winter weather he could only dream of in Ohio.

■ The Bulls can fit him between a young core of Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah and allow him to pick up winning titles where Michael Jordan left off.

James has never said he wanted to leave the Cavs, but there's long been speculation that he'd be willing to bolt for a larger market. Fans certainly seized on that idea Thursday, chanting "New York Knicks! New York Knicks!" when the two-time MVP shot free throws.

The Cavs thought they'd have more time before they had to face the thought of a future without James. They had the NBA's best record and expected to be playing into June, but found their supporting cast wasn't good enough on nights when James was human.

After scoring 38 points in Game 3, he managed only 37 over the next two games, perhaps bothered by the elbow. He shot down internet speculation of a torn ligament before the game, but clearly wasn't himself.

As for the severity of the injury, James would only say: "I've got a lot of time to think about it now."

He went more than 19 minutes of game time without a basket from early in the second quarter until late in the third. Balls were stripped from his powerful hands, and those normally pinpoint passes were thrown behind teammates or at their feet.

Still, he somehow ended up with a triple-double. Only 25, he will surely win a title someday.

Nobody knows yet where it will be. "You hope for things that's much brighter than what's going on right now," James said. "I'll come back a better player next season and I still have the same goals."

acquired at the trade deadline from Washington, had just five points.

The sold-out Boston crowd taunted his every free throw with a chant of "New York Knicks!" and fans wore Knicks jerseys with his name on them. The only "M-V-P!" cheers were not for James, who was the league's best player in the regular season, but for Rondo, who was the best player in this series.

Greinke gets 1st win; Royals fire manager Hillman



KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—The Kansas City Royals fired manager Trey Hillman immediately after pitcher Zack Greinke earned his first win in eight starts, 6-4 over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

Alberto Callaspo hit a three-run homer and the Royals snapped a seven-game skid by roughing up Cleveland starter David Huff (1-5) and giving Greinke (1-4) his most run support of the season. The hard-luck right-hander made the most of it, winning for the first time since September by allowing up three runs in six innings.

The 47-year-old Hillman was in his third season with Kansas City and went 152-207. Former Brewers manager Ned Yost, who had joined the Royals' front office in January took over the team.

Tigers 6, Yankees 0

At Detroit, Justin Verlander pitched a shutout into the seventh inning and Miguel Cabrera tagged CC Sabathia as Detroit handed New York just its second series loss of the season.

Verlander (4-2) won his third straight start, giving up four hits and four walks in 6 2-3 innings.

Cabrera and Brennan Boesch gave the Tigers a 3-0 lead with back-to-back homers down the right-field line in the fourth. Cabrera added a two-run double in the sixth.

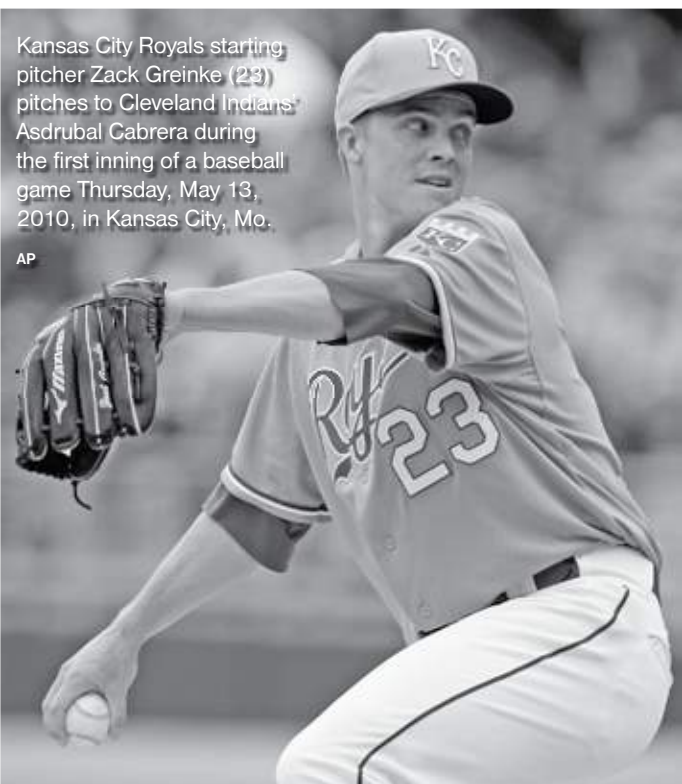
Orioles 6, Mariners 5

At Baltimore, Luke Scott hit a grand slam to cap a five-run eighth inning against reliever Brandon League as Baltimore held on to beat Seattle when left fielder Corey Patterson nailed Josh Wilson at the plate for the final out.

Wilson tried to score from second on Ichiro Suzuki's single.

Held to five hits over seven innings by Seattle starter Felix Hernandez, the Orioles promptly broke loose against League (3-3).

Patterson, promoted from Tri-



Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Zack Greinke (23) pitches to Cleveland Indians' Asdrubal Cabrera during the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 13, 2010, in Kansas City, Mo.

AP

ple-A earlier this week, hit a lead-off homer in the eighth to start the comeback from a 5-1 deficit.

Rangers 2, Athletics 1, 12 innings

At Arlington, Texas, Vladimir Guerrero delivered an RBI single in the 12th inning as Texas beat Oakland in a game in which one balk became a base hit and another led to the ejection of the Rangers catcher.

Guerrero was hitless in five at bats before lining a shot deep into the left-center gap off Oakland closer Andrew Bailey (0-1) to drive home Michael Young.

Dustin Nippert (2-3), the loser in the 13-inning series opener Tuesday, worked around a lead-off single in the 12th.

Jake Fox had three hits for Oakland, including a single in the fourth on a pitch from C.J. Wilson that umpires had signaled was a balk. Because Fox hit the ball, the A's by rule got to choose which to take—so Fox wound up with a base hit and Wilson wasn't charged with a balk.

Wilson got called for another balk in the seventh, when he flinched his body while still on the rubber with-

out delivering a pitch.

Padres 1, Giants 0

At San Francisco, Mat Latos pitched a shutout and also drove in the lone run to give the San Diego Padres a win over the San Francisco Giants, completing a three-game sweep of the clash of National League West leaders.

Latos (3-3) retired the first 15 batters and has not given up a run in 18 innings. The only hit he conceded came when Eli Whiteside opened the sixth with a one hopper that rebounded off Latos' glove hand to shortstop.

He outdueled San Francisco starter Jonathan Sanchez (2-3). Latos completed his first career complete game, striking out six and walking none in a game that lasted only 2 hours, 6 minutes.

It was the first sweep by the Padres at San Francisco since 2005.

Nationals 14, Rockies 6

At Denver, Ryan Zimmerman hit two homers and drove in a career-high six runs, helping Washington beat Colorado in a game that ended after eight innings due to rain.

Zimmerman hit a towering

two-run homer to left in the first inning and a three-run shot to left-center in the fifth. It was his sixth career multi-homer game. Both homers came off Colorado starter Jhoulys Chacin (2-1).

Washington broke open a one-run game in the eighth by scoring seven times, the big blow a three-run double from pinch hitter Cristian Guzman.

Washington's Doug Slaten (1-0) got two outs in the seventh to earn the win.

Marlins 2, Mets 1

At Miami, Cody Ross scored from third base on a wild pitch by Fernando Nieve in the ninth inning, lifting Florida over New York.

Ross walked with one out off Nieve (1-2) and took third on a single by Ronny Paulino. Nieve's first pitch to Dan Uggla was a breaking ball in the dirt that bounced away from catcher Rod Barajas, and Ross slid across home plate with the winning run.

Florida's Leo Nunez (2-0) took the win with a scoreless ninth after Luis Castillo reached second on a single and an error to start the inning.

Astros 4, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Houston starter Bud Norris shut down St. Louis for the fourth straight time as the Astros wrapped up a three-game sweep.

Norris (2-4) struck out eight and walked none in eight innings. Though he's 8-7 with a 5.10 ERA in his career, Norris is 4-0 with a 0.35 ERA in four career starts against St. Louis.

The Astros scored all four runs in the third, perhaps taking advantage of Chris Carpenter's temper. Cardinals starter Carpenter (4-1) and Carlos Lee had a staredown and then exchanged words after Lee popped out with two runners on base, leading to both benches and bullpens streaming on the field, although nothing got overheated.

Hunter Pence was next up with two outs, and he hit his fifth homer to put Houston ahead 4-0.

said. "If you miss a second shot, it's tough out of the bunkers and runoffs they have on the greens. These par 3s aren't easy. To have three birdies on par-3s is quite good."

Jones, whose best finish this season is a tie for seventh two weeks ago at Quail Hollow, teed off among the morning groups before the temperature on a humid, windy day climbed into the mid-80s.

Stankowski birdied five of his final 15 holes

"This would rival one of the most solid rounds I've played in years," Stankowski said. "I know in the wind, you have one option—to go ahead and hit solid shots, and I did that today. This was a good day, and this is really how I would love to draw them every round."

we wanted, but the first hole is not an easy starting tee shot there at all," Jones said. "It's very narrow.

"After that, it was just a battle to get back to even par on the front nine, and then I made about a 30-footer for par on 11, which kind of kept me going. And from there on, we had six birdies and an eagle."

Jones hit a 3-wood approach from 276 yards to 8 feet on No. 14.

He birdied three of the four par 3s.

"With these greens, if you miss a tee shot you're working hard to par or birdie," Jones

Matt Jones lead Texas Open

is a little bit different than we play week in and week out, and I think to some of the players it's a little bit of a shock," Els said. "Back to even par, but I feel like, you know, it could have been a low score out there. The wind dropped for us."

Els' playing partner, Vijay Singh, left several putts just short, but finished

with a birdie for a 73. Zach Johnson, the two-time defending champion, made a 7 on the par-3 13th and ended up with an 8-over 80.

Jones rebounded after making a double bogey on the first hole.

"A double wasn't the start



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Matt Jones eagled the par-5 14th hole and finished with a 6-under 66 to take a one-stroke lead Thursday after the first round of the Texas Open.

Jones, the 30-year-old Australian who played at Arizona State, also had four birdies in a back-nine 30 on the Greg Norman-designed Oaks Course at TPC San Antonio, the tournament's new site after 15 years at La Cantera.

Paul Stankowski opened with a 67, and J.B. Holmes, Matt Weibring, Charley Hoffman and Steve Lowery had 68s.

Ernie Els, a two-time winner this year, had a 72. He was 3 under on the final five holes, making a tap-in eagle on 14 after a 293-yard second shot.

"Obviously, this golf course

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	24	10	.706	—
New York	22	12	.647	2
Toronto	20	16	.556	5
Boston	18	17	.514	6 1/2
Baltimore	11	24	.314	13 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	22	12	.647	—
Detroit	20	15	.571	2 1/2
Chicago	14	20	.412	8
Cleveland	13	19	.406	8
Kansas City	12	23	.343	10 1/2

West Division

Texas	20	15	.571	—
Oakland	18	17	.514	2
Los Angeles	15	21	.417	5 1/2
Seattle	13	21	.382	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	20	13	.606	—
Washington	20	15	.571	1
New York	18	17	.514	3
Florida	17	18	.486	4
Atlanta	16	18	.471	4 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	20	15	.571	—
Cincinnati	19	15	.559	1/2
Milwaukee	15	19	.441	4 1/2
Chicago	15	20	.429	5
Pittsburgh	14	20	.412	5 1/2
Houston	13	21	.382	6 1/2

West Division

San Diego	22	12	.647	—
San Francisco	18	15	.545	3 1/2
Los Angeles	17	17	.500	5
Colorado	16	18	.471	6
Arizona	14	21	.400	8 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Houston 4, St. Louis 1
San Diego 1, San Francisco 0
Florida 2, N.Y. Mets 1
Washington 14, Colorado 6 innings
Baltimore 6, Seattle 5
Detroit 6, N.Y. Yankees 0
Texas 2, Oakland 1, 12 innings
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4

VALERO TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Scores Thursday from the \$6.1 million Valero Texas Open at the par-72 (36-36), 7,435-yard TPC of San Antonio, Oaks Course

FIRST ROUND

Matt Jones	36-30-66
Paul Stankowski	33-34-67
J.B. Holmes	36-32-68
Matt Weibring	34-34-68
Steve Lowery	36-32-68
Charley Hoffman	34-34-68
Joe Durant	36-33-69
Brett Wetterich	33-36-69
Steve Flesch	37-32-69
Arjun Atwal	34-35-69
James Driscoll	36-34-70
Marc Leishman	37-33-70
James Nitties	35-35-70
Ted Purdy	35-35-70
Daniel Chopra	35-35-70
Tim Petrovic	36-34-70
Jarrold Lyle	37-33-70
Aron Price	34-36-70
Michael Letzig	34-36-70
Kent Jones	35-35-70
Tom Byrum	38-32-70
Jimmy Walker	36-34-70
Mathias Gronberg	34-36-70
Spencer Levin	33-37-70
Charles Warren	35-36-71
Chris Stroud	36-35-71
Michael Bradley	37-34-71
Adam Scott	36-35-71
Greg Owen	36-35-71
Garrett Willis	37-34-71
Rocco Mediate	35-36-71
Fredrik Jacobson	34-37-71
Tom Gillis	37-34-71
Steve Wheatcroft	36-35-71
Cameron Tringale	35-36-71
Cameron Percy	36-35-71
Garth Mulroy	36-35-71
Bo Van Pelt	39-33-72
Pat Perez	36-36-72
Lee Janzen	37-35-72
Robert Dameron	39-33-72
Phil Tataurangi	34-38-72
Mark Brooks	34-38-72
Charlie Wi	36-36-72
Tommy Armour III	36-36-72

Michael Connell	37-35-72
Martin Flores	36-36-72
Bobby Gates	37-35-72
Chris Wilson	37-35-72
Jeff Burns	37-35-72
Billy Mayfair	37-35-72
Craig Barlow	36-36-72
Jeff Maggert	36-36-72
Troy Matteson	38-34-72
Ernie Els	37-35-72
Steve Elkington	36-36-72
Bill Lunde	37-35-72
Cliff Kresge	38-34-72
Mark Hensby	39-33-72
Vaughn Taylor	38-34-72
Omar Uresti	37-35-72
Spike McRoy	36-36-72
Chris Tidland	36-36-72
Paul Goydos	38-35-73
Tim Wilkinson	35-38-73
Richard S. Johnson	36-37-73
Sergio Garcia	38-35-73
Chez Reavie	36-37-73
Tim Herron	40-33-73
Brett Quigley	35-38-73
Jay Williamson	36-37-73
Jason Gore	36-37-73
Harrison Frazar	36-37-73
John Rollins	38-35-73
Vijay Singh	38-35-73
Shaun Micheel	37-36-73
John Morse	38-35-73
Ryan Baca	37-36-73
Josh Teater	36-37-73
Brian Stuard	38-35-73
Robert Gamez	39-35-74
Jeff Gove	37-37-74
Carl Pettersson	37-37-74
Chris DiMarco	38-36-74
Chad Campbell	36-38-74
Dicky Pride	37-37-74
John Mallinger	39-35-74
Troy Merritt	35-39-74
Mathew Goggin	39-35-74
Robert Garrigus	37-37-74
Eric Axley	38-36-74
Briny Baird	36-38-74
Roger Tambellini	37-37-74
Henrik Bjornstad	37-37-74
Kevin Johnson	39-35-74
Frank Lickliter II	40-35-75
Robin Freeman	37-38-75
Chris Riley	41-34-75
David Duval	39-36-75
Ryan Palmer	36-39-75
Aaron Baddeley	36-39-75
Andrew McLardy	37-38-75
Carlos Franco	38-37-75
Joe Ogilvie	38-37-75
Michael Clark II	36-39-75
Todd Hamilton	39-36-75
Kirk Triplett	40-35-75
J.L. Lewis	39-36-75
Scott Piercy	39-36-75
Gary Woodland	39-36-75
Nicholas Thompson	38-38-76
Len Mattiace	39-37-76
Guy Boros	39-37-76
Brenden Pappas	40-36-76
Michael Sim	39-37-76
Jerod Turner	37-39-76
Vance Veazey	39-37-76
Jeev Milkha Singh	39-37-76
Justin Leonard	37-39-76
Brian Bateman	37-39-76
Craig Bowden	40-36-76
Matt Bettencourt	39-37-76
Scott McCarron	38-38-76
Marco Dawson	37-39-76
Mike Standly	37-39-76
Tim Thelen	42-34-76
Rich Barcelo	36-40-76
Derek Tolan	39-37-76
Kris Blanks	41-36-77
Cameron Beckman	39-38-77
John Daly	41-36-77
David Lutterus	39-38-77
Bob Estes	39-38-77
Jim Carter	36-41-77
Mark Wilson	41-36-77
John Huston	39-38-77
Kevin Stadler	38-39-77
Justin Bolli	40-37-77
Jay Delsing	38-40-78
Johnson Wagner	42-36-78
Blake Adams	38-40-78
J.J. Henry	39-39-78
Tom Pernice, Jr.	39-39-78
Gene Williams	42-36-78
Skip Kendall	39-40-79
Dean Wilson	40-39-79
Thomas Kearney	38-41-79
Glen Day	38-41-79
Jim McGovern	38-41-79
Jonathan Kaye	39-40-79
Grant Waite	42-37-79
Zach Johnson	41-39-80
Graham DeLaet	41-39-80
Brent Delahoussaye	42-38-80
John C. Little II	41-41-82

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Ol'Aces drub Athletics in Junior League

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Ol'Aces pounded the Athletics, 23-1, in Sunday's Saipan Junior League matchup held at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and improved their win-loss record to 10-2, while the A's fell to a 2-9 win loss slate.

After leading the game 10-1 after six innings, Ol'Aces had a nine-run lead and really just need three outs to end the game, but instead piled on 14 runs in their top of the seventh.

In the first four innings, the Athletics stranded four runners before Jared Lizama connected with a one out solo homer in the bottom of the fifth to give the A's their only run of the game.

Ol'Aces started slow and

only put three runs on the board in the first four innings, but they came on very strong at the end to brutally put the A's away.

After a scoreless first, L.J. Lizama led off the top of the second with a single, stole two bases, and scored off an error.

Then in the top of the third, Devin Noisom reached off an error and was singled in by L.J. Lizama.

In the third Ol'Aces made it 3-1 from T.J. Sablan who singled in Zachary Yamagishi who led off with a single and stole second.

In the fifth, Ol'Aces added two more runs off three hits, two stolen bases and an error.

Then in the sixth after the A's scored their lone run in the top half, with two outs, Ol'Aces added five more runs and now led by nine.

Ol'Aces hit the ball very well and ran the bases very aggres-



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Current Junior League batting leader A.J. Lizama went 4-for-5 with a homer, three RBIs, three runs, and three stolen bases in Ol'Aces' 10-2 win against the Athletics last Sunday.

sively, 13 stolen bases in the contest, but lot of bad throws and fielding errors by the A's contributed to the meltdown in

the last two innings.

Notables include Jeremy Lizama who batted 4-for-6 with an RBI, four runs, and a

stolen base; A.J. Lizama went 4-for-5 with a homer, three RBIs, three runs, and three stolen bases; and Jonah Flores batted 3-for-5 with three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

Fielders 16, Lions 6

The Fielders improved to 7-3 after their 16-6 win against the Lions, which stayed winless with 12 losses.

Mason Fruit went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, a triple and a run in leading the Fielders to the impressive win.

Winning pitcher Kody Kaipat, meanwhile, pitched all five innings and allowed three earned runs with four strikeouts, and four walks. Kaipat also batted 3-for-4 with an RBI, three runs, and a stolen base.

Patriots 13, Survivors 3

The Patriots remain undefeated

with its 12th win after dominating the Survivors.

Jeremy Rabauliman, who is currently listed fourth in Junior League batting race and second in both earned runs and strikeouts, had an explosive performance, batting 2-for-3 with a triple, five runs, and four stolen bases.

He pitched three late shutout innings and faced 10 batters to tally seven strikeouts, no hits, and a walk for the save.

Red Sox 13, Northerns 8

The Red Sox jumped up to a 7-4 win loss record, as the Northerns' 13-8 loss kept them stagnant with a 2-9 win-loss slate.

Tommy Reyes batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, and five stolen bases in the win, while Steven Cabrera went 1-for-5 with three RBIs and a stolen base in support.

Fil-Taga, SGA May tourneys this weekend



The Fil-Taga Golf Association and Saipan Golfers Association will hold their respective May tournaments this weekend.

Fil-Taga will hold its monthly event tomorrow, May 16, at the Coral Ocean

Point. Tee time starts at 11:30am.

SGA, meanwhile, has scheduled its May tournament also this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Check-in time is set at 9am with tee time at 10am. (*Saipan Tribune*)

OL'ACES

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his way to second base.

In the top of the fifth, Josh Jones struck out two for the Falcons and received a put-out to right for another solid 1-2-3 inning.

In the bottom half, Jones tried to help his cause with a two-out double, but was left stranded a batter later.

In the top of the sixth, Ol'Aces loaded the bases with one out, but Josh Jones delivered two big strikeouts and denied Ol'Aces from touching the dish.

Then in the bottom half, the Falcons managed two runners, but failed again to get past second base.

In the top of the seventh with the game still knotted at 1-1, Ol'Aces went 1-2-3 and it really looked like the Falcons were going to come out on top of this one.

They have come up short in the past in some close games and were due to finally get over

the hump and win one.

Herman Castro led off with a single and Camacho reached off an error.

A fly out and a strikeout later, Cruz was hit by a pitch to load the bases with two outs in the bottom of the last inning of a tied game.

Ol'Aces pitcher Juan Iguel came up big and struck out Feliciano to close out the inning and send the game into overtime.

In the top of the eighth, Ol'Aces turned it up a notch at the plate.

Marvin Kaipat came up huge with one out triple.

Then Juan Iguel grounded to short where the Falcons shortstop opted to go to first instead of home and threw it in the dirt.

Perhaps the play should have been at the plate, but instead the Falcons just let the go-ahead run score and failed to come away with a second out.

To make matters worse, Ol'Aces were right in the thick of their batting order.

Lisua was hit by a pitch and a double steal later put runners on

second and third with one out.

Aughenbaugh scored Juan Iguel off a deep sacrifice fly to center before Lisua came in off a left field error.

With the score at 4-1, Ol'Aces going into the bottom of the eighth, the Falcons kept trying to grind it out.

Pangelinan led off with a single and a flyout later, Ol'Aces pitcher Juan Iguel exceeded his pitch limit and was relieved on the mound by Aughenbaugh.

Aughenbaugh would retire two of the three batters he faced for the save.

Notables of the game include the starting pitchers from both squads.

Josh Jones pitched eight innings and allowed two earned runs with nine strikeouts, six hits, a walk, and a hit-by-pitch in his losing effort.

Winning pitcher for Ol'Aces, Juan Iguel, pitched 8 and 1/3 innings and allowed an unearned run with eight strikeouts, seven hits, two walks, and a hit-by-pitch. Iguel also batted 1-for-4 with a triple and two runs.

ing Wild Bill's a 2-1 lead.

Matansa's lone goal in the first half came from T.J. Gurung in the 19th minute. He made another one in the second half and Dhiraj Singh Chetri also found the back of the net in that period, but Matansa still fell short to claim victory.

Inter Godfather's 7, Young Guns 1

In the last game of the day, Inter Godfather's defused the Young Guns, 7-1.

Inter Godfather's took a 5-1 lead at the break behind the two goals apiece from Bruce Berline and Masatoshi Otsuka. Matthew Holley gave Inter Godfather's its fifth goal in the first half, while Bo Barry put Young Guns in the scoreboard with his goal in the 24th minute.

In the second half, Berline and Otsuka nailed one goal each to power Inter Godfather's to its fifth win in eight games. Young Guns remained winless after seven matches.

SOPHIA Walk this Sunday

Marianas Walking Association will host the 11th Annual SOPHIA Walk this Sunday.

It starts from the Carolinian Utt Pavilion in Garapan with the registration beginning at 7am.

It will have two courses. The longer 10-kilometer course will take participants walk through the Garapan tourist area, American Memorial Park, and to the intersection of Mid-

dle Road and the road leading to the Saipan Port, and back to the Carolinian Utt. For the shorter five-km course, the turning point is the end of Smiling Cove Marina inside the AMP.

Members of the Saipan Rotary Club and Hasaki Rotary Club of Japan are expected to join regular MWA participants in the walk.

Former first lady Sophia Ten-

orio and 88-year-old Japanese Jo Izumi were among the 112 participants of last year's 10th staging pf the event.

The SOPHIA Walk, which is named after the former first lady, stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure.

For more information about MWA and its future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tajima at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694. (*Saipan Tribune*)

QQ RENT

From Page 28

of the third, 50-41, but had only Diego Masga making a field goal and Jun Miday scoring four points in the fourth quarter to hand the win to Shakir.

Shakir drew double figures from four players with Francis Rebuyon leading the way with his 20 points. Sonny Ebuon had 18, eight in the fourth, while Danny Dayrit and Erlan Langsang contributed 10 apiece.

Konflikt 98, Moonlight 79

UFO

From Page 28

any nationality. In the past editions of the UFO caging, the league was open only for Filipino players or those with Filipino lineage.

"This is the twist for this year's league, we will have an import-style just event like the Philippine Basketball Association. The new eligibility rules will be applied only to the open division. It is mandatory for each team to have one local player on their roster," Madriaga said.

In the second game last Sunday, Konflikt clobbered Moonlight, 98-79.

The win was Konflikt's third in four games, while the loss was Moonlight's third also after four matches.

Martin Moreno exploded for 42 points to lead Konflikt's 19-point win, while Junar Guiab and Sam Fernandez added 23 and 20, respectively. Roel Aguilar also scored in double figures with 12.

Konflikt had the game as early as in the first period when it led, 29-10, behind Moreno's 14 points. Moonlight never recovered from thereon.

Besides the open division, the UFO, which will kick off on June 6, caging will also hold competition in the masters division. The masters competition is only for players in the 37-and-above age group.

Expected to compete in the open division and defend its title is MDX-Chow Queen Bakery, which swept Samahang Ilokan at Pangasinense-Marianas Wireless in a short best-of-three title series.

In the masters division, the Ebisuya-backed Northern Marianas Bartenders Association won the championship,

Easy Does It 106, Grease Lightning 76

Easy Does It posted the most lopsided win of the week after a 106-76 trashing of Grease Lightning.

Hotshot Edgar Pangelinan sizzled for 40 points in Easy Does It's fourth win in five games. Joe Tudela also had a good shooting day, firing 23 markers.

Easy Does It got off to a strong start, taking a 26-8 lead, behind Tudela's 11 points and Dave Demapan's seven.

Pangelinan, who had only four markers in the first period, took over in the remaining three quarters, scoring in streaks.

edging Cabalen, 2-1.

Meeting today

Meanwhile, interested teams are asked to attend a meeting today at 7pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

League format and other details will be discussed at the meeting. A draw will also be held to determine participating teams' uniform color assignments.

Entrance fee is still \$500.

For more information, contact Madriaga at madriaga@pticom.com or 287-4501.

MP UNITED

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Wild Bill's improved to a 4-1-2 slate for fourth place in the team standings, while Matansa remained at fifth spot with its 3-1-4 record.

Jeeraphon Thoensaket made twin goals for Wild Bill's in the second half (71st and 83rd minute) to hand Matansa its fourth loss. In the first half, Detdon Agul and Jason Schroeder scored, giv-



O'Aces clinch Big League pennant

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

O'Aces came up with three late runs in the extra eighth inning of play to clinch the Big League pennant of the 2010 Saipan Little League against the Falcons, 4-1, in a very competitive Thursday night contest at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons had the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh and were 90 feet away from winning this close one, but O'Aces stuffed them at the end of regulation, went on to take the lead in the top of the eighth, and denied the Falcons from scoring in the bottom half for the win.

Juan Iguel led off for O'Aces in the first inning with a triple and was driven in by Ryan Lisua, but a strike-out later, Noki Saralu grounded into a 6-4-3 double play.

Then in the bottom half, the Falcons' Thomas Camacho led off with a single and later scored off an errant throw from third to tie the game.

In the second, Jimmy Brel led off



O'Aces pitcher Juan Iguel, center, allowed one unearned run with eight strikeouts in his team's 4-1 Big League pennant-clinching win against the Falcons Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



with a single, but Falcons pitcher Josh Jones struck out the next batter and his catcher, Camacho, threw out Brel on his way to third for another Falcon double play.

The Falcons went 1-2-3 in the bottom half, just as O'Aces did in the top of the third.

In the bottom of the third, the Falcons stranded a runner at second.

Then in the top of the fourth, Eli Aughenbaugh drew a one out walk, but was thrown out trying to steal second before Saralu popped out to center.

In the bottom half, the first three Falcons' batters reached base, but were all denied passage to second for an uncharacteristic 1-2-3 inning.

Nick Cruz reached off an errant throw from the second baseman, but O'Aces' J.P. Lizama recovered and gunned him down at second.

Then Dodet Feliciano singled, but was picked off by Saralu trying to steal second and John Pangelinan drew a two-out walk before getting caught on

See O'ACES on Page 27

MP United back on top of men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



MP United reclaimed the top spot in the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League after downing K. Juniors, 4-2, on Sunday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

MP United, which took a break in Week 9, allowing K. Seniors to have a short stint at the No. 1 spot, returned for Week 10 matches and remained unbeaten with its 6-1-0 win-draw-loss record. It was K. Seniors' turn not to play last weekend, dropping the team to second place, a point behind MP United FC, which has earned 19 points against the former 18 after seven games.

K. Juniors absorbed their fifth loss against two wins for sixth place in the eight-team field. K. Juniors tied the game at the break, 2-2, but MP United drew one goal apiece from Joe Miller and Kim Min Ki to pull off the win. Dae Won Jeon and Yim Jae Hyuck were the other scorers for MP United. K. Juniors drew one goal each from Seol Chang Hwan and Sung Ho Kang.

Wild Bill's 4, Matansa 3
In the first game, Wild Bill's edged Matansa, 4-3.

See MP UNITED on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wild Bill's Steve McKagan prepares for a corner kick during their game against Matansa in the NMIFA men's league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

QQ Rent a Car slips past Team 4

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

QQ Rent a Car cruised to its third win in the 2010 MGD/MBFNM 35A Masters Basketball League, following an 80-60 victory over Team 4 last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

QQ Rent a Car drew big games from the trio of Danny Illahi, Warren Villegas, and Teddy Bugay to improve to a 3-2 record. Illahi scored



23 points, while Villegas and Bugay added 19 apiece to foil Team 4's repeated comeback bids.

Illahi nailed 11 of his total points in the fourth quarter to keep QQ Rent a Car afloat, while Bugay chipped in six in that period. Villegas spread his production through four quarters, starting slow with three points in the first and then hit two triples in the second to put QQ ahead, 37-30. He then scored the team's last six points to halt Team 4's rally.

Team 4 remained winless in five games.

Shakir Realty 63, Brabu Bulls 56

In the battle of unbeaten teams, Shakir Realty prevailed against Brabu Bulls, 63-56.

Shakir held Brabu Bulls to six points in the fourth quarter to keep its undefeated record in four games. Brabu Bulls dropped to a 3-1 mark.

Brabu Bulls were ahead at the end
See QQRENT on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of QQ Rent a Car pose for a group photo before their game in the Masters caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

UFO caging opens door to locals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 2010 season of the United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League will be reinforced with local players when the competition opens shop next month at the JP Center Basketball Court.

UFO official Paul Madriaga said participating teams are allowed to have a maximum of two non-Filipino players on their roster. However, one of them must be a local and the other could be of

See UFO on Page 27